The Library of Congress'

EARLY STATE RECORDS PROJECT

converted from the original microfilm held by the
Vincent C. Immel Law Library, Saint Louis University

through the generous support of a grant from the

Council on Library and Information Resources

This document contains handwritten text that may be partially illegible due to age, penmanship, or deterioration of the medium. LLMC has scanned the material in the same format and page order in which it is maintained in the source document taken from the collection "Records of the States of the United States of America, a microfilm compilation."

19

BOUND BY STIKEMAN & CO. N.Y.

Natchez 6 November 21. 1805

[illegible] moment receive your favours of the [illegible]
they were delayed in consequence of
[illegible] detached (except
the [illegible] Thompson) under the command
of the [illegible] from New Orleans were ordered
to [illegible] from [illegible] have
reached [illegible] a similar delay will not
prevent [illegible] Major Stark has no doubt
informed [illegible] I flatter myself that I shall
[illegible] a few days. The General
[illegible] will have had certain information
of [illegible] Converse for the purpose
[illegible] therefore [illegible] ordered
[illegible] days. [illegible]
[illegible] Captains [illegible]
[illegible] Rivers
[illegible] of any Company [illegible] volunteers to [illegible] any the
[illegible] commission is to [illegible] New Orleans [illegible]
[illegible] I am persuaded that [illegible] will
[illegible] offer their services.
[illegible] I deem it [illegible] policy for the [illegible] Kentucky
[illegible] commissions [illegible] to New Orleans
[illegible] ready [illegible]: With a respectful
[illegible] of your command, the [illegible] ations

may be conducted
attempted. The reports
tomorrow, and by that conveyance
write to you.

With respect and esteem
I am Sir
Your Obedient Servant
Danl Clarke. (Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne

Camp [illegible] December 22. 1803

Sir

The northern [illegible] arrived last
night no official communication. I am making
all the preparations [illegible] to descend
the River. On monday [illegible] detachment of
Cavalry march to Fort Adams, where they
remain until the General arrives, unless
circumstances [illegible] approach of the enemy
should [illegible] advisable.

Shepherd Major Franklin [illegible]
Orleans, and direct your [illegible] my dispatches
to come by the way of [illegible]

I am with respect
Your Obed't Serv't
Danl. Clarke. (Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne

Natchez November 26. 1863

I have certain information that on the 17th Genl Walker, on left Fort Leftwich, for Shreveport from whence by the way of the Lake, he would proceed to New-Orleans, and thence to Matagorda, where his arrival may be soon expected.

In my dispatches to the Prefet and Mr Clark (Copies of which I transmitted to you by the last mail) I have not yet received answers, but I expect them in two or three days.

I enclose for your perusal the last communication which I have received from Mr Clark. They confirm me in the opinion that the presence of the Confederate army at Shreveport and that they should be accompanied by a respectable military force. Under this impression no exertion shall be wanting on my part to be in readiness for a speedy movement.

Being unwilling to enact a harsh conscription draft of the militia unless the measure should become absolutely necessary, I have as yet only solicited the services of such volunteers as are willing to proceed as an escort to the Commissioners and in about four or five days I hope to will muster to the number of two hundred men at least, and probably a more respectable force.

afford on more minute [illegible]
preparation at Fort Adams, are not [illegible]
-ness as I expected and wished. But a few [illegible]
of the Ordnance there are yet mounted; and I
should suppose it imprudent to move without
a handsome train of artillery: For should opposition
be made, and a Coup de main prove impracticable,
it would be highly necessary for us to be in a
situation to carry on offensive operations with
[illegible] against the enemies works. The
Officer commanding at Fort Adams, in a letter to
me dated the 23d inst. says "I will be [illegible]
necessary to take no other means of offence than
our artillery, after the 27th we shall be ready
at a moment's warning. I have now fourteen [illegible]
afloat and in three days will have two or three
more, but I cannot complete the Ordnance
in less than ten days." The works round
the City of New Orleans are not in a state of
defence, but Redoubts and a Fort at the
Lake are strong and regular fortifications,
against which it may become necessary to use
heavy cannon.

I have also to report that the situation
of individuals with respect to their cotton crops
and other private business at this particular
season

season, has retarded our volunteer enrolments in the militia. An idea also prevails that the force required is intended more for parade than service, as the people here cannot yet believe that any serious opposition is meditated by the Spanish Government at New Orleans. But should such opposition be attempted I am convinced that a large majority of the men capable of bearing arms in this Territory, would join the army with alacrity.

I have incurred some public expenses for the equipment and comfort of the volunteers, which I hope will meet the approbation of Government.

With sentiments of high respect
I have the honor to be
Your Ob. Serv.t
Signed / Wm C. Claiborne

The Hon.ble
James Madison
Secry of State

Mount Pleasant, November 29. 1803.

Sir,

The special messenger whom I dispatched to New Orleans on the 18th inst.t returned this evening and brought the inclosed communication from Messrs. Clarke and Ch. Laussat. The French officers Ch. Landais whose arrival at Orleans was so much wished for by the Prefect, hoped through

of Salcedo three days ago; and
from him he has flattered us the hopes
Commissioners his original powers.
Notwithstanding the pleasing intimation of
the Prefect I was inclined to think with Mr. Clark
that the appearance of a respectable force with th
Commissioners, would probably facilitate the
negociations and expedite the final delivery
of the Province to us. I have not been able to
collect so many citizens in the Territory as I
calculated on; many circumstances operated
against me in this particular, and more m
sincerely than the rest and unpolitical weather
which we have experienced here for a
considerable time past without intermission.
However my intention to proceed
with such citizens as I have c
Fort Adams within three days, a
to New Orleans with all possible
have hope that the volunteers will amount to
upwards of two hundred men; these with the regulars
will make an about five hundred strong: and even
with that force I am disposed to think that whatever
Spain may intend, we should be able in a short
time to hoist the American Flag at New Orleans.

The Hon.ble
James Madison

I have the honor to be &c.
[signed] Wm. C. C. Claiborne

Sir

Near Natchez November 30. 1803

I have had the honor to receive your communication of the 11th inst. together with its several inclosures, and I pray you to be assured that their contents will receive my faithful attention.

I am pleased to find that provision has been made to relieve me from the labors and responsibility of the Revenue Department at New Orleans; and I learn with satisfaction that the President has selected for the Collector, Mr. N. B. Trist — a gentleman, whom I hold in high estimation, and with whom I promise myself a cordial cooperation in whatever relates to the public interest.

I have the honor to be, with great respect

Sir

Your most Obedt Servant

The Hon.ble
James Madison
Secry of State

Signed W.C.C. Claiborne

Sir

Natchez December 1st 1803

This day having proved fair, I embarked on a detachment of the Natchez Artillery, another of riflemen, and one Company of Militia infantry — on all about one hundred men on board of a vessel at the Natchez landing, with orders to sail immediately for Fort Adams. I impressed on this occasion, into the public service, a Schooner which lay in the river opposite this City. The same Schooner with

a post considerably, in transporting
and stores to New-Orleans. I am
shall myself proceed to Fort Adams by land,
expect on my route to fall in perhaps with eighty mo
volunteers on their way to that Garrison, which is
appointed the place of rendezvous.

I have learned with great pleasure that General
Wilkinson had arrived at New-Orleans on the 25
~~ultimo~~, and is hourly expected at Fort Adams.—

There are two or three companies of volunteers
assembling in Jefferson County, but I fear they will no
arrive in time to accompany us to New-Orleans.
The mounted Infantry from Tennessee have not
yet reached Natchez, but it is reported that
are on their way.

I have the honor to be with great respe

J. Mart Hobdy Govr

The Honble
Jas. Madison
Secy of State

Natchez Dec. 2. 1803

Sir

The mail this evening brought me a letter
from Mr. Clarke, which I have enclose with sincere
pleasure, as it contains additional grounds of
expectation

expectation, that the Province of Louisiana &c. will be delivered over to us without the necessity of our having recourse to hostile extremities. As there is I believe no doubt but that M. Laussat brought with him the original papers attached to Mr Blanke all difficulties respecting the cession seem to be removed.

I have the honor to be with great respect

The Hon^ble
James Madison
Secy of State

Your Most Obed^t Servant
Signed W^m C. C. Claiborne

Fort Adams Dec^r 4. 1803

Sir

I arrived here this morning, and had the pleasure to meet General Wilkinson. I find that the Troops &c are not yet ready for imbarkation; but the General supposes he will be enabled to make a movement on the 8th instant.

On my route hither I met the express mail from New-Orleans, and received by that conveyance a communication from M^r Clark, of which the enclosed is a copy. I congratulate you Sir on the contents of that communication, since it gives us a hope that the Province of Louisiana will be surrendered to the United States immediately on the arrival of the American Commissioners; and

[illegible] blood will be shed on [illegible]

I am now the less anxious to have the militia force, and shall discontinue my exertions to collect the numbers. But I presume it will be advisable to take with us, as many volunteers as have already been enrolled, and are either here or on their way hither; I suppose they may amount to between one hundred and fifty, and two hundred men; and in this opinion I presume the General will concur.

I at this place met with the owner of the Schooner Bilboa which I impressed into the public service at Natchez, and he appears much dissatisfied with that employment, and asks to be given up. I am sorry the exigency of the service, to which this vessel was destined, should be the most arbitrary act of my life, but not only the public service requires it, but necessity at the time urged to the measure. The Schooner has already been employed in conveying to this place a large part of the [illegible], and her future services will be still more valuable, as without the assistance of a vessel, there is much of the Ordnance, [illegible] ammunition, and other necessary military stores, that could not, at this time, be transported to N. Orleans.

I have the honor &c.

The Secy. of State. Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne

Sir

Fort Adams Dec. 5th 1803

The General is apparently making every possible preparation to embark immediately, but I fear we shall not be able to proceed tomorrow as we expected. The boats are not covered, but will probably be completed this morning. I feel a great anxiety to be at New Orleans, but I find it no easy task to put even a small army into motion. I am happy at the pleasing prospect now before us of a peaceable entry into Louisiana, as the expenditure of national blood and treasure might otherwise be great and the consequences calamitous.

The volunteers from this Territory to the number of about one hundred and twenty have already joined at this garrison, and it is expected that between thirty five and forty more will be here tomorrow or next day. I find that the men having been called into service upon so short notice are unprovided with clothing &c. for the season, and understanding that there is a supply of clothing, blankets &c. in the public stores, I shall entreat the General to direct, that the detachments of militia be furnished with some necessary supplies. Nothing shall be asked but what is essential to the comfort of the volunteers, and I flatter myself that the Executive will approve my application,

and sanction the conduct of the
request be granted.

I am in hour by expectation to address
M. Laussat, announcing the delivery of Louisiana to
him by the Spanish authorities.

I have the honor to be with great respect,
Yr Mst Obed Servant
The Hon.ble / Signed / Wm C. C. Claiborne
James Madison
Secretary of State

Fort Adams Dec.r 6.th 1803

The transports for the troops are completed
receive their loading, and there is a prospect of sail
on Saturday the 10.th inst.

I shall by leaving the Territory expose much
preparation, and shall therefore pray to make
fervently than ever, that our country may be
spared to the various misery of
In preparing transport, equipping
this new raised volunteer with scarcely of comforts
necessary even for a short campaign, I find that
much money is required.

The detachment from Tennessee have not arrived
and I flatter myself their services
in Louisiana may be dispensed with.

The

The [illegible] Britain
continues dissatisfied, lest [illegible]
that his dissatisfaction is owing [illegible]
price of the services.

I have the honor [illegible]
&c. &c. &c.

The Hon^ble [illegible]
James Madison
Secretary of State

Sir, [illegible]

Yesterday [illegible]
day, we had the honor
our conversation. [illegible]
shall be able to [illegible]
understand, [illegible]
gentlemen on their [illegible]
But I should suppose [illegible]
together with the regular
amounting on the whole
and fit for [illegible] or four hundred
force to proceed with [illegible]
expecting circumstances, and
solicitous for further [illegible]

I have the hon[illegible]
&c. &c. &c.

The Secretary of State

Fort Adams, Dec.r 8.th 1803.

I am still at this place. An embarkation is talked of on tomorrow, but so many preparatory arrangements yet remain to be performed that I much fear a longer delay.

The militia were marched this morning and amount to about two hundred. I wish for myself no greater force in addition to the regular troops, and I presume that, on this occasion, the general will concur. The militia are all ready to march and are becoming extremely restless.

General Wilkinson has been so entirely engaged in military arrangements, that we have had as yet little conference on the object of our mission. But I presume he will be prepared to meet us on the subject of Louisiana as soon as the militia of my county, and a sufficient accomodation therefor shall be unconditionally secured on my part.

I have the honor to be

with great respect

Sir Your

Most obt. Servt

James Madison

Secry of State

Wm. C. C. Claiborne

Sir,

New Orleans Dec. 20. 1803

The letter from the American Commissioners will inform you that we are now in possession of this City; and I hasten to inform you of the measures which I have taken as Governor of Louisiana.

A proclamation of which the enclosed is a copy, was issued by me immediately after the surrender of the Province. You will observe, that it is silent concerning the militia, a subject chiefly interesting to the feelings of many here, & for many reasons, I am inclined to await a further acquaintance with the nature of the present establishment, before I attempt any organization of that force.

I also inclose for your Excellency a copy of a Act received from myself to the citizens of Louisiana: and I persuade myself that the sentiments I have conveyed, will meet with the President's approbation.

The standard of my country was this day unfurled here, amidst the reiterated acclamations of thousands. And if I may judge by professions and appearances, the Government of the United States is received with joy and gratitude by the people. I shall write to you more fully by the next mail. At present it is sufficient for me to say, that the surrender of the Province to us has been happily accomplished

in as favourable omens as can be wished.

I accept assurances of my distinguished esteem and high consideration.

[Signed] Wm. C. C. Claiborne

The Hon.ble
James Madison
Secretary of State

Proclamation

By His Excellency
William C. C. Claiborne
Governor of the Territory of Orleans
and Intendant of the Province of Louisiana

Whereas by the Convention between the Government of France and Spain, the Province called by the former the Colony and Province of Louisiana, with the same extent which it had at the date of the above mentioned treaty in the hands of Spain, and that it had when France first possessed it, and such as it ought to be after the treaties subsequently entered into between Spain and other States; and whereas the Government of France has ceded the same to the United States by a treaty duly ratified, and bearing date the 30th

of April on the present year, and the possession of said Colony and Provinces is now in the United States according to the tenor of the last mentioned treaty; and whereas the Congress of the United States, on the 31st day of October, in the present year passed an act that until the expiration of the session of Congress then sitting (unless provision for the temporary government of the said territory be sooner made by Congress) all the military civil and judicial powers exercised by the then existing government of the same, shall be vested in such person or persons, and shall be exercised in such manner as the President of the United States shall direct for maintaining and protecting the inhabitants of Louisiana, in the free enjoyment of their liberty, property and religion; and the President of the United States has by his commission bearing date the same 31st of October invested me with all the powers, and charged me with the several matters heretofore held and exercised by the Governor General and Intendant of the Provinces:

I Have therefore thought fit to issue this my

Proclamation

making known the premises, and to declare

that the government heretofore existing in the
said Province of Louisiana, & with which the
authority of Spain, as of the French Republic,
has ceased, and that of the United States of
America is established over the same; that
the inhabitants thereof will be incorporated in
the Union of the United States, and admitted
as soon as possible according to the principles of
the Federal Constitution to the enjoyment of all
the rights, advantages and immunities, of citizens
of the United States; that in the mean time they
shall be maintained and protected in the free
enjoyment of their liberty, property, and the
religion they profess; that all laws and munic
regulations which were in existence at the
of the late Government, remain in full force and
all public officers, charged with the execution
heretofore shall have powers
vested in me and
have been entrusted
revenue are continued
during the pleasure of
being, or until provision shall otherwise be made.

And I hereby require and enjoin all the

inhabitants

inhabitants & other persons within the said Country to be faithful and true in their allegiance to the United States, and obedient to the laws and authority of the same; under full assurance that their just rights will be under the guardianship of the United States, and will be maintained from all force or violence from without or within.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

Given at the City of New Orleans the 20th day of December 1803. and of the Independence of the United States of America the 28th

Signed / Wm C. C. Claiborne

The following Address was delivered by the Undersigned to a large assemblage of citizens in the Grand Salle of the City Hall, on the 20th day of Dec[illegible]

"Fellow citizens of Louisiana!

On the [illegible] interesting event which is now finally consummated — an event honorable to yourselves, and glorious to the United America, I cannot forbear offering you my

warmest congratulations.

The wise policy of the G[illegible]
by the cession of Louisiana to the United St[illegible]
secured to you a connection beyond the reach
of change, and to your posterity the unalienable
possession. The American people receive you
as brothers, and will hasten to extend to you a
participation in those unvaluable rights which h
formed the basis of their own unexampled prosperi
Under the auspices of the American Government
you may confidently rely upon the security of your
property and the religion of
choice. You [illegible] with certainty rest
that your conscience will be shielded, and you
Christ have a noble field for your pure energy, a
among the principal cares of the National Legislature.
In return for these benefits the United [illegible]
amply remunerated, if you
to the Constitution
for the principles
proportioned to the
Among your first
cultivate with assiduity among
ment of political information, you should guide
the

[illegible] on the paths of republican economy and virtue; you should encourage literature, for without the advantages of education, your descendents will be unable sufficiently to appreciate the enhanced worth of the government transmitted to them.

As for myself fellow citizens, receive from me the assurance that during my continuance in the situation in which the President of the United States has been pleased to place me, my exertions will be made on my part, to foster your internal happiness, and to promote your general welfare, for it is only such measures alone, that I can devise to merit the approbation of this great and sentinel people, inside in the councils of our Nation.

[Signed] Wm. C. C. Claiborne

[Circular] New Orleans December 20. 1803

Sir I have the pleasure to inform you that on this day the Territory of Orleans and Province of Louisiana were peaceably delivered to the Commissioners of the United States. The French Commissioner etc. have sat. On this occasion I pray you to receive my sincere congratulations.

The Governor of Ohio.
The Governor of Kentucky.
The Governor of Tennessee.
The Secretary of the Mississippi Territory.

[Signed] Wm. C. C. Claiborne

By William C. C. Claiborne

Governor of the Mississippi Territory &c.

Exercising the powers of Governor General and Intendant of the Province of Louisiana

Conceiving that the Office of Notary Public is not consistent with that of Auctioneer I have determined that the several persons now exercising the Office of Notary Public whether in virtue of Commissions heretofore granted or otherwise shall no longer exercise the Office of Auctioneer and the Office of Notary Public and that those who shall hereafter be considered as duly qualified to fill said Offices.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the City of New Orleans this twenty third day of June in the year 1803. and in the Independence of the United States 28th

Signed / Wm C. C. Claiborne

By William C. C. Claiborne Governor of the Mississippi Territory exercising the powers of Governor and Intendant of the Province of Louisiana.

Whereas much public inconvenience may arise from an unlimited sale of spirituous liquors to the soldiery of the United States now stationed in this City, I have thought fit to issue this my decree strictly forbidding the sale of any wine, or spirituous or other strong liquor by any person or persons whatsoever to any non-commissioned officer or private in the service of the United States, unless such non-commissioned officer or private shall have a written order to that effect under the hands of some commissioned officer and addressed particularly to such person or persons as shall sell such liquor, and I do further declare that if any person or persons shall be convicted of having sold to any non-commissioned officer or private any wine or spirituous or other strong liquors otherwise than as this decree directs, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding fifty dollars, and all Alcaldes, Trustees and Conservators of the Peace, and other Magistrates having cognizance of offences against the police of this City

are hereby ordered and [illegible]
persons offending in the premises [illegible]
arrested and fined accordingly.

Given under my hand and seal of the administration at the City of New Orleans this 24th day of December in the year 1803, and of the Independence of the United States of America the 28th.

(Signed) Wm C. C. Claiborne

1803
1803
1760

New-Orleans Dec.r 29th 1803

Since my last I have been and daily engaged in circumstances which admit or making any arrangements for the ensuing Government of Louisiana and Westward most conformant to the intentions of the President and the relation of the inhabitants. The difficulties I meet with in the undertaking are [illegible] embarrassing on account of the neglected state in which I found the colony. The functions of government have been nearly at a stand for some time, and considerable arrears of business have accumulated in every department of the French Prefect during the

the time he held the county, exerted himself to remedy this evil, and his efforts were so happily directed as to give pretty general satisfaction: But he could feel only a temporary interest in the concerns of the county, and his term was too short for extensive operations. There is one of his measures however to which I feel myself not a little indebted. He established the Cabildo, or City Council. This body was created on principles altogether incongruous with those of our government. It was a part of hereditary Council — its duties feeble and ambiguous and are proved to be devised to the views of the Spanish Government. In this place I found only a municipality established, consisting of the most distinguished characters, and disposed to the upheld charge of Government. And I therefore did not hesitate to sanction the new arrangement.

Being a stranger in the county of course stand in need of much information and the suspicions which I have too much reason to apprehend from talent entirely in almost every quarter to which I can look, have often induced me to deliberate perhaps longer than is consistent w

the promptitude expected from

Among my difficulties I have the re-organization of the Militia. I have the right to the Prefect was not so fortunate in his arrangements on the Rhine as I could have wished. I have found several young men holding rank above their years and some others who are unpopular as officers and upon whom the militia will serve very reluctantly if at all. But my principal difficulty arises from two large companies of people of colour, who are attached to the service and were raised a very serviceable corps under the Spanish Government. On this particular corps I have reflected with much anxiety. To recommission them might be viewed as an outrage on the feelings of a part of the nation already offended to that principle of policy which the safety of the southern states establish. On the other hand to refuse to recommission them would disgust them and be productive of future mischief. To disband them would be to raise an armed enemy in the very heart of the country, and to disarm them would savour too strongly of that despotic system of government which seldom succeeds.

I should

should no necessity urge me to a hasty decision on
point, I shall await some opinion and instructions
from the Department of State, and have therefore to
beg that I may be favoured with them as soon as
possible.

In my first proclamation I did not insert the
Treaty as was intended by the draft forwarded
to me some time since, it having become lost in
the course of the week before my arrival, it was
in the usual New Orleans papers, in the English and
French languages, and had already got into general
circulation. The insertion of it in my proclamation
would merely have been a needless repetition;
and the timely receipt of the printed
Treaty enabled me to issue my proclamation
without delay.

I had formed very favourable expectations
of the country, but I am not the whole to
find them unsatisfied. The banks of the river from
Baton Rouge to the city exhibit almost an uninterrupted
street of comfortable and frequently magnificent
buildings, with every appearance of prosperity around
them. The principal streets of the city are well
built — many of the houses are elegant, and improve-
-ment seems to progress. New Orleans, although

to be not unlike [illegible]

with every prospect of a rapid advance
house is large, and, I am told, commodious
opportunity of communicating to the late Governor
his eldest son, that I wished him to consider that house
as his own until it was perfectly convenient to him to
leave it. I however learn that he means to quit it in
the course of a few days.

Yesterday paid a visit of ceremony to the
Convent here; and returned assure you deeply
impressed with the importance of that establishment
at the present period. There is an Abbess and eleven
Nuns the sole object of whose pious care is
education of female youth. They at present accom-
modate twenty three boarders, and a hundred day scholars
each of whom contributes to the support of the house
in proportion to the means and condition of their
respective parents, and many never pay for their tuition
gratis. In the name of the Government of the United
States I undertook to give them a solemn
assurance that they would be protected in their
persons, their property, and the religion of their choice;
and they in return expressed the highest confidence
in the Government. They even indulge an expectation
that several of the Nuns who on the arrival of the

French

French officers, retired to the Havanna would return
it being now certain that nothing is to be apprehended
from the French, and that with us they could enjoy
the advantages of just and mild laws.

Our army here is so small that Genl. Wilkinson
has not yet thought it expedient to dismiss the militia
of the Mississippi Territory. I think necessary to mention
that the General at my request furnished many of them
at Fort Adams with clothing blankets &c as the men
were too poor to provide them selves, and the expence
was inclement and severe. For the sake of these
patriotic men I have to entreat that the articles fur-
nished, may be considered by the Government
as a present. My absence will of these country they
turned out in the middle of winter when a serious
danger was apprehended. their duty has been hard.
And at the expiration of their time the price
of their enlistment be deducted from them for they
will go home poorer than they came with the fatigue
of the expedition the only reward of their services.

I beg assurance of my high
and respectful consideration

The Hon.ble / Signed / Wm. C. C. Claiborne
James Madison
Secretary of State

By William C. C. Claiborne
of the Mississippi Territory
Governor and Commander in Chief
of the Province of Louisiana.

To all who shall see these presents Greeting:

Know Ye, that good and urgent reasons me hereunto moving, I do hereby pardon Benjamin Sejac and John Duarby prisoners now in confinement in this City, and do release and forgive unto them and consign to oblivion, such offences as they may have been heretofore convicted of or charged with and on account of which they have been confined as aforesaid; and do therefore order that the said Benjamin Sejac and John Duarby be forthwith released from confinement and set at large.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Administration of the City of New-Orleans this 28th day of December in the year 1803, and of the Independence of the United States of America the 28th

L. S.

Signed W.m C. C. Claiborne

An Ordinance

By William C. C. Claiborne
Governor of the Mississippi Territory
exercising the powers of Governor General
and Intendant of the Province of Louisiana

To act in the administration of justice, Whereas it is
-ed, and do hereby declare that until some provision
shall be made by Congress for the trial by jury of
of Louisiana, a Court of Pleas shall be holden
in and for the City of New-Orleans and the terms
thereof, to consist of not less than seven justices,
from time to time appointed by the Governor for the
time being, at such places within the said City
shall set at some convenient place within the city
of New Orleans, at least once in every week to wit,
on Monday, and at such other time as the court by
adjournment shall appoint; and at such sessions, four
of the said Justices shall be sufficient to form a
court for all purposes, but no decision shall pass
in any cause unless a majority of the Justices present
shall concur therein. And the said Court shall
have cognizance of all manner of debts, duty, ac
and demands, not exceeding the sum of three hun
dollars: and the said court shall have power to

[illegible] all manner of [illegible]
as well against the person as the [illegible]
writs or warrants of summons, capias, attachment,
sequestration, and execution against the person and
estate, and likewise the process of summons, subpoena
and attachment of person or goods, to require and
compel the appearance and testimony of witnesses;
all such process shall be directed to, and executed
by the Alguazil, Major or Sheriff, returnable to the
said Court upon the duties thereof; and the said
Alguazils Major or Sheriff, shall be entitled to re-
ceive for such service such or similar fees or
allowances as have been heretofore received for the
same or like services by the Alguazils, Majors
or other officers performing such services under the
Government: and the Governor for the time being is
to direct an Account or Notary or Clerk of the
said Court who shall under the directions of the Court,
[illegible] all manner of proceedings and faithfully
record the proceedings [illegible], in duplicate
in the French and English languages; and as a
compensation for his services he shall be entitled to
have and receive such fees and allowances as the said
Court by a table of fees to be by them prepared and
approved by the Governor for the time being, shall ap-
point,

appear, & who shall fail so to do with Three of the
Aldermen Major or of the said Notary or Clerk
shall be paid by one or both of the parties in such
sort, in such manner as the Court shall direct
and judgment and execution shall go thereon in
the same cases respectively. And the said justices
are hereby made and invested with the powers of
Conservators of the Peace within the limits aforesaid
and shall each and every of them singly have full
power and authority to hear and determine in a
summary way all civil cases which shall be brought
before them respectively, to issue all processes for the
recovery of any sum not exceeding twenty dollars and
to decide on their own knowledge or information to
them made on oath given of breaches of the peace, or other
offences against the police of the town by warrants
under their hands and seals respectively, to cause
all offenders to be arrested and committed for trial
or at their discretion in case of small offence, to be
brought before any two of the said justices, and the said
such two justices are hereby authorized to proceed
immediately to the trial of such offenders and on
conviction to cause them to be fined or imprisoned
or either at their discretion, provided that the

fine in no case [illegible]
or the term of imprisonment [illegible]
duty always to at their [illegible]
such offender, or sufficient security being given for
their good behaviour for a term of time therein
ensuing, not to exceed two years: but it is at the
same time provided, that the aforesaid Court of
Pleas shall not try any disputed title to land
or bounds: and it is also provided that in all
cases the parties may conceive themselves aggrieved
by the decision of the said Court, in the matter
in dispute shall exceed five hundred dollars
that shall be a right of appeal to the Court
in the premises: and on sufficient security
offered to the Court, that the party appealing
will duly and without delay prosecute
the judgment to be finally rendered, all proceedings
in the said Court in such cases respectively shall
be stayed until the Governor and Council known
whether if the appellant or plaintiff in error
succeed in appeal or writ of error, the
amount of the cost, debt and accrual interest and
costs which may be recovered against such appellant,
shall pay at the rate of [illegible] per cent per annum
for satisfaction for such damages as the appellee

may

may have sustained by the [illegible] day of proceedings or other delay which may have occurred by reason of such appeal.

Given under my hand and the seal of the administration at the City of New Orleans, this Thirtieth day of December in the year 1803 and of the Independence of the United States of America the 28th

L.S.

(Signed) W.C.C. Claiborne

By William C. C. Claiborne,
Governor of the Mississippi Territory,
exercising the powers of Governor General
and Intendant of the Province of
Louisiana. —

For the better arrangement of the shipping, and the security thereof in the Port of New Orleans it is ordained and directed that the following

Regulations

relative thereto, be strictly observed and enforced.

Article 1. All vessels within twenty four

hours after the
lop'd and fall boom in
forward of
Art 2. All vessels lying in an outside tier at the lwe
shall have at least one large anchor in
the stream.
Art 3. Accessits shall discharge their ballast
at such place or place, as the Collector
of the customs for the time being, shall from
time to time appoint.
Art 4. All vessels having cargoes to discharge
shall have one hawser in to station
to those that are loading.
Art 5. Vessels lying by or at ordinary shall
suffered to lie between
of the City, unless in the opinion
Harbour Master no
may
direct thereon.
Art 6. Vessels lying at
of the City, and having
may be removed by the Harbour Master,
at the expense of the owner or consignee.
Art 7. Any Master, or other person commanding
a vessel, who shall when required by the

Harbour Master

Harbour Master, for his delay to measure
same, shall be fined for each offence in the
sum of fifty dollars in the first instance, and for
delay in the execution of such order, three
at the rate of twenty four dollars per day, to
be recovered in like manner as aforesaid
in consequence thereof.

Art. 8. All vessels on their arrival shall go to or
anchor in the stream, and as soon as
can into such station, as the Harbour Master
direct from time to time, or in case
dispute, as the Port Warden

Art. 9. A print of the laws of this State
shall be affixed by the Harbour Master
of such vessel, and shall be replaced
as often as it may be defaced or
destroyed, under the penalty of
twenty five cents each

Art. 10. All rafts or flat boats descending
and ascending the River shall come to
and keep their distance from the
wharves as the Harbour Master shall
direct, under the penalty of

Art. 11. The Harbour Master shall be entitled to
receive from every sea vessel arriving at the
Port, one cent per ton, of two cents for each
registered ton; and from all barges, flats and
other crafts, laden with merchandize,
twenty five cents each

Art. 12. In all cases in which no other penalty is
herein specified, such matter of fact, and
offence refusing or delaying to comply with any
of these regulations, according to the true intent
and meaning of this Decree, shall be fined
in a sum not more than one hundred, nor
less than twenty dollars, for the discretion of the
Magistrate before whom such delinquency
shall be tried. And all fines or other dues
accruing or becoming payable on account of
the said Lots, shall be received in or
becoming due before the Magistrate, Justice
or Commissioner of the Land in the said City
And all fines shall be paid into the
Treasury of the City for the use thereof.

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of this Commission at the City of New Orleans, on the 29th day of December 1803— and in the 28th year of the Independence of the United States of America.

[L.S.]

[Signed] Wm. C. C. Claiborne

Sir, New Orleans, January 2. 1864

I am happy in which to forward
Continued in cover, and the enclosure
herewith is continuation of it. This is the case
of Perrin who I am pleased to find that
exchange of Government has given clearance
sheet to the public concurrence.

It gives me great satisfaction to
(very sure) the favorable change of the
times that continued on the part of the
Union of the American Government now is at the
present you may be assured that nothing has
on the part which could do
this that friendly
[illegible] efforts on [illegible]
moment from the [illegible] of
power [illegible] by [illegible] entered
species of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
to mean [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the weight
of the responsibility which rests on me; I have even
indulge an anxious hope that Congress will soon
relieve me from that difficulty. The establishment
of a government for the Province will

[illegible] be a matter of [illegible] to be returned more speedily than a crime. In the meantime I propose no opinion of my [illegible], except such as the [illegible] of the Convention and the [illegible] of general confidence on the Government shall spontaneously require.

To attempt a general reformation of the late system of Government would be a vain labour. The principles of the system have been [illegible] by the Government [illegible] scarcely a new [illegible] by [illegible]; the [illegible] in every [illegible] with [illegible] of the mystery & entire [illegible] have been lost in confusion & [illegible] Some law a repeal [illegible] of Govern- [illegible] that [illegible] & [illegible] of them has ceased; for it [illegible] that under his administration, [illegible] of honor and profit in his gift [illegible] that that man [illegible] the same [illegible] of confidence, he often [illegible] his duty to the highest [illegible]. This only can be said in extenuation of this conduct, that he is superannuated, and that his eldest son, a young man who [illegible] an unfortunate character in this place, has acquired [illegible] maintains a ruinous influence over his aged father. After such account of the heart, you will not be surprized that the same character

difficulties beneath the system, in every direction.

12. While in search of food the young fawns of the county embarrass some teams of the arrears of levies in this department. Many of the causes are of considerable importance, and some of them have been pending for upwards of twenty years: corruption had set her seal upon them, but now, that seal being broken, the necessity of further delay, attended by much hustle from the right and left Chairmen of the Assessed Taxes, and the Magistrates, is impossible to avoid. These explanations immediately to go through the causes and evidence and the voluminous accumulation of written testimony with it. I understand them to be called, would not only an intimate knowledge of the Statute (for to turn, take the sense of which exactly as could would be the work of years) but also an agreement with the Spanish Courts and habits of practice. Characters with such qualifications, and none to whom may safely be confided so important a trust are not to be found easily. I wish it were in my power to recommend all those causes without expense

the parties; but in many of them [illegible]
material testimony on record, which never can be had
again. Under existing circumstances I feel a
great reluctance in exercising any judicial
authority. Under the Spanish government there
was a right of appeal to the Governor General
at Havana, from the Governor's Court here,
and that of course, no longer exists, and I to
assume the office of Judge my decisions must
be final, and I might be accused of arrogating
to myself a plenitude of power which the haughty
of my Spanish predecessors had never employed.
At first thought of establishing already or
Magistrates for the prefecture of Jordin, and the
-cision of small debts, but a number of urgent
petitions from the mercantile interests and other
influential character, I have been induced to
establish a limiting Court to consist of seven Magistrates,
and at the recommendation of the Municipality
[illegible] Municipality of Splendid to the recovery of
debts not exceeding three thousand dollars, with
a right of appeal to the Governor in all cases,
above five hundred dollars. The establishment
of a court with powers thus extensive may perhaps
for a time reconcile the inhabitants at this place

6

to a suspension of the functions of the Governor's Court.
The jurisdiction of this Temporary Court will not at present extend beyond the limits of the City and the Charities who composed an Union among themselves for Society and Talent, appear to me most likely to render these appointments acceptable to the people. To this end I was prepared by the attack meetings of the Society: I have endeavoured to make the arrangement in such a manner as to be most conducive and agreeable to the wishes and habits of the inhabitants, and I hope it will meet the President's approbation.

Etc. Etc. I have the honor to be Your Excellency's most obedient humble Servant

Permit me also to mention that the arrangements made by General Wilkinson meet my approbation; and that his measures have been directed to maintain good order, and support the civil authority.

I have taken no measures for the re-organization of the militia, and shall await instructions from the President. At present I have no

sion to apprehend any public [illegible]
short delay. I have given [illegible] to communicate this or
other intention to companies who contemplate offering
their services.

In the different prisons of this City I have found
upwards of one hundred prisoners, some of whom have
been there from ten to thirteen years, on suspicion of
crimes of which it does not appear they were ever
convicted, and some for offences of a very trivial
nature. I have given orders to place among the first acts
of the new Government for which justice
and humanity so loudly call, not entertaining that
the Spanish authorities charged some of the
prisoners I had explanations on the subject
with all the Chiefs, and each seemed to think he had
been settled between himself and the Alguazil de Casa
of the prisoners confined for criminal offences,
merely against the county, passed with
the Sheriff of the county; but that the Spaniards
were entitled to retain such as were confined for
offences against the Crown or Flag of Spain —
as Treason, Military crimes &c. The Alguazil
however has given me reason to believe that the
Spanish prisoners will be set at large immediately,
and requested that they might be detained until
an arrangement could be made to that effect.

Of

of the prisoners who have fallen within my former
I have already stated fee; and shall proceed to
set at Liberty the whole at large. Their distribution
would be attended with a heavy public expence,
and could answer no good purpose; as at present
one only gratuitable, whether any principle of law
would justify our noticing offences of which we had
no cognizance at the time of their commission.
It is also to be remembered that many of them are
illiterate and ignorant persons, who would be induced
in the general amnesty, to imagine that on a
similar occasion of future insurrection, the
other pleas [illegible] the justice, clemency, and
confidence I should feel in having of the first occasion
so glorious to my country, should be dissipated by
the rattling of a single chain.

I flatter myself I shall be able to keep
the expence of the present insurrection
within narrower limits, than I at first apprehended;
and from all the representations, I am induced
to hope that this necessity will be commensurate
to my demands.

The merchants as well as the planters in the
County appear to be wealthy: their habits of living

re luxurious and expensive: [redacted]
of the people are egregiously misinformed. The whole policy
of the late Government having discouraged the education
of giving the attainments of some of the first people
consist only of a few polite accomplishments. Frivolous
pleasures seem to be among their primary pleasures;
and the display of wealth and the parade of power,
constitute their highest objects of admiration. ——
Republicanism has many professed admirers here:
There is something in the plain principles of equal
rights which comes within the scope of the meanest
capacity, and is seen to be agreeable because it
is flattering to the vanity of every individual.
But I fear that Republicanism is confined among all her friends
here will be found but few who have cultivated an
acquaintance with her favourably. But when the
[redacted] of the people become a little expanded, I
do not but they will be useful, if not zealous
members of our Commonwealth. Among the first
things to be attended to is, to some effectual
plan of immediately introducing into this Province
some system of education. I have already communicated
to the Municipality of the City my wishes on this subject,
and shall urge them to some prompt measures. The
City is rich in lands and houses as well as continent

accounts,

revenues and have it in their power to be liberal in the encouragement of public establishments. But the sum of £300 now and £1000 to be contributed with their contribution, while £ per cent of the tax of education be left entirely to private exertion, but little improvement will ever be seen. I hope that the Government will take early measures for schools, and as soon as possible some Seminaries of literature in this Province.

Permit me before I conclude to repeat my solicitude for the early establishment of some permanent government for this Province, not merely on account of my personal interest in the accelerations of that measure but as the best of the country within the charge of which I have fallen and the people have been used to, that they will clearly become very unfortunate under their present situation. I could wish that the constitution to be given this District may be as republican as the people can safely entrusted with. But the principle of the British Government are widely different from those of the United States. The representative system is an engine that at present, bewilders them. Long entirely to the ordinances they have to an almost total want of political information, unaccustomed as they are to habits of thought as to matters of government,

[illegible] a certain one by no means

[illegible] of such weight as they may [illegible] acquire

in the national scale. For nearly the same reason

the establishment of a Judiciary on [illegible]

principles will [illegible] encounter the most serious

difficulties. Not one in fifty of the old inhabitants

[illegible] time to understand the English language

sufficiently for [illegible] will only embarrass the

administration of justice. Tho' I presume a short

experience would be sufficient to convince any

reasoning society of the inestimable advantages of

[illegible] system.

The causes of this [illegible] from the Militia

Ordinance will [illegible] me the displeasure with a

few days. The return will be dispatched by

the [illegible] cannot forbear again

recommending this [illegible] to the attention

of Congress. The duty has been hard and

the season severe; yet no single instance of desertion

has occurred among them, and their conduct has,

with the exception of five or six individuals, been

uniformly orderly and obedient. Some complementary

communication to them thro' the Secretary of

War, would be but a just tribute to their

merit, and might have a happy effect in case

of

of future emergencies.

I have the honor to be
With great respect
Y. Ob. Servant
Signed Wm C. C. Claiborne

The Hon ble
James Madison
Secy of State

Sir New Orleans January 10th 1804

I have the honor to inclose to you a
of the ordinance for the Regulation of a Court of Justice
in this City, which was adopted in my last
communication. I have only to repeat that the
means were wanted to defray the Expences of the
and were called for by the state of the
I flatter myself that the principles of this
will be marked with justice and moderation.
I also inclose for your perusal a copy of some
regulations prescribed by me for the arrangement
of the shipping in the Port of New Orleans. The
regulations were recommended by Com. Tingey
and as far as I can learn are approved of by the

Merchants.

The most [illegible] against [illegible] the
[illegible] of this Province, the most dangerous of
these, unfitness for a representative Government. The
[illegible] of the people is indeed great, but
[illegible] and a virtuous Magistracy resting
[illegible] support on the suffrages and good will
of this [illegible] citizens, on this ground, often
[illegible] be exposed to encroachments arising by the
machinations of [illegible] who
with some reputation and address might make
many [illegible] people think as they will, and act
[illegible] of [illegible] that representation
[illegible] had bad effects, in
united to the soundest sense and best means
[illegible] of knowledge in an unlimited field
[illegible] until [illegible] the progress of information
[illegible] these degrees remove that mental darkness
which at present so unhappily prevails, and a
general knowledge of the American language, laws
and customs be rendered [illegible] that a repre-
sentative Government in Louisiana would be
a dangerous experiment. "

God forbid that I should recommend
to this people political provisions under which

oppression

Jefferson's of any kind could be treated with
enmity by France in future. I do think
that their overtures would be readily met, if
they remain for some years under the immediate
guardianship of Congress, and that for the present
a local and temporary government for Louisiana
upon principles somewhat similar to our present
Territorial Government in the first grade, be
established.

I know this course will meet with great
hostility from the French Government and party, and
among many of the leading of this City,
whom to me, that Louisiana ought to be
in its present state that hostility. Neither what
I know not but I have learned that in some
circles a sentiment is cherished, that at the
close of the war between England and France
Great Bonaparte will again assert his claim
in this country. For my part I attach no importance
to this little political speculation. It is decided
more by the wishes of those who buy them, than
on the subject, than by any reasonable ground
of expectation.

The harmony of society has
some en[illegible] since my last letter. Genl
[illegible] Lafayette and Adjutant Genral of the
[illegible] army, who accompanied him hither, have
been [illegible] time seriously at variance, and have
much divided the sentiments of the French officers
and citizens. The disputes between these men is
carried to great length, and their different partizans
are violent. Genl Lafayette was lately grossly insulted
upon the safety of his person menaced in his
own house by a French Canadian officer. He claims
the protection of Nation and entitles him to and
demands redress for the injury. The officer has been
arrested & remanded now in confinement.

A fracas also took place at a public
Ball on Monday last which altho' it arose
from trifling causes, has occasioned some warmth.
It originated in a contest between some young
Americans and Frenchmen — whether american
or French ladies should have preference. I
believe this affair is at an end, but being desirous
of the present position of communicating every
circumstance which might have a political tendency,
or deserved a worthy of mentioning.

Yours

Shall get in mind but little expence
in the execution of my limited authority. A prudent
economy shall be kept constantly in view.
I shall little doubt, but that all Just & reasonable
meet my disbursements. I found it necessary to employ
an Interpreter of the French and Spanish languages,
and a Private Secretary, which together with the
expence of printing, contribute at present the
principal items in my account.—

I propose taking the immediate possession of the
Governor's House which Governor Salcedo quitted
about ten days ago. It is a large building &
decently situated, but in such out of repair that
should it be appropriated for the residence of the
Lieutenant Governor, extensive repairs will
be necessary to secure the building from decay,
and to render it comfortable.—

The merchants of the City express great
anxiety that some Laws should pass to regulate
their commerce. They complain of great injury for
want of Regulations for their vessels, and being yet
subject to export duties and other commercial
inconveniences.

Page 3

Mr. Secretary Mr. Fox conducted himself in a gentlemanly satisfactory manner. I can confidently say that he has attended to his duties, and faithful to the interest of the United States.

Among the inhabitants of this place who stand highest in public estimation is a Mr. Williams & Mr. Billings late Vice Consul at this Port. He is a man of integrity, great commercial information, and a sincere friend to the Government of the United States. I have taken the liberty to name Mr. Billings with a view of bringing him to the notice of the President if he should deem it advisable to confer any official trust in this Province during his continuance in this City.

Mr. Fox and Mr. Nicholas on their way to Guadaloupe, arrived in this City on the evening before last, and will proceed in two or three days to their place of destination. They have had a tedious passage, but as the business on which they are employed will be speedily dispatched for this we hear that goods are neither examined nor confiscated. I presume no public injury will arise from the delay. I find that Mr. Fox is much pleased with Bermuda, and I am

Robert

56

Robt Williams is equally so with the other Officers of the Territory. Should a Territorial Government be established in Louisiana I am inclined to think Mr Williams and Mr Ruby would each of them accept of commissions as Judges of the new Territory. In the mean time the worthy men are too well known at the seat of Government to need any recommendation of mine.—

Since my arrival here I have not received a single letter from the Department of State in the exercise of my present great discretionary powers it would be a great relief to me to learn from time to time the views and wishes of the Executive in relation to the Province.

I must confess that I feel every day more and more solicitous that some arrangements be made by Congress for the temporary government of this Province. But until that event takes place I will do every thing in my power to promote the general good, and to harmonize the Province in loyalty and prosperity to the present Government.

Accept assurances of my great respect and esteem.

[Signed] Wm C. C. Claiborne

The Secretary of State

New Orleans [illegible]

Sir,

In [illegible] you will receive your commission a
Lieutenant of Point Coupée, and also a lett
to the late Commandant, which I request you to
deliver immediately.

The archives, public papers, and documents of
every description, which are to be surrendered to you, will
remain in your possession, until further order, and I
expect that the necessary precaution will be taken for their safe
keeping.

The same powers in civil matters which heretofo
were exercised by the Commandants of Districts under
the Spanish Government will be vested in you, and
rely on your intelligence and judgment to discharge
with fidelity and strictness the trust committed to you.

You will be careful to observe as nearly as all
your official acts and such as advised from time to
time of the state of your District. Doubtful questions
and cases of great importance, which can admit of
delay are to be reported to me, and I shall thereupon
transmit you particular instructions.

Accept assurances of my respectful consideration.

J.

Julien Poydras.

[signed] W.C.C. Claiborne

Sir, New Orleans, January 15. 1804

Your letter of the 11th inst. inclosing extract from the deliberations of the Municipal Body has been duly received and made the subject of attention.

I will premise that the regulations for the shifting in the harbour were adopted upon the representation of all Pilots the Collector of the Port and the Harbour Master which rests from commissions of the Mayor. The Collector in recommending and myself in prescribing the regulations were influenced by a desposition to promote the interests of the City and if any part of the regulations should prove contrary to that end, an amendment will be made with pleasure and promptitude.

Under the Government of Spain the Harbour Master was a salary Officer but it has been so no provision is made for a salary, and the fees of the Office must either be abolished, or some emolument established.

I agree with the Municipality that the ballast of vessels should be appropriated for the repair of the levee, and with this object in view

it was directed to be deposited as part of the
dues as the Collector might from time to time
direct. That the future the Harbour Master
should be instructed to have the ballast deposited at
such place or places as the Municipality may point out.

That a charge of twenty five cents is laid upon
every loaded with merchandize, and not genuinely an
craft that engaging both and foreign into the
country. I am myself convinced to think that this
dues may be probably dispensed with altogether
but research and the subject will be
attended to on some occasion.

The Municipality state that the bridge
engaging both the former Harbour master proposed
himself of erroneously and this shall be an object of
some valid enquiry. It is represented to me that
the former Harbour Master claimed the bridge
as being his own individual property, and as
such they have been sold to the present Harbour Master
for a valuable consideration. I am also informed
that the engaging them or not is at the option of the
owner of the vessel, and that the Spanish Government
did sanction the practice of charging for them no;
but as I before observed, this matter shall be enquired
into.

into, and I will readily do that which justice seems to dictate.

I thank the Municipality for the mark which they have thought fit to bestow on my conduct, & beg you to assure them of my great satisfaction in every thing in my power for the interest of the City of New Orleans.

I beg to assure you of my great respect and high consideration

[Signed] Wm C. C. Claiborne

The Mayor of the City of New Orleans.

New Orleans Jany 28. 1804

Sir,

I received your communication as Lieut. Commandant of the District of Attakapas and Opelousas, and I beg you will assure and rely upon it, that my abilities to execute the trust reposed in me with judgment and discretion.

You will find the citizens of those districts disturbed by local parties and extremely bitter in their animosities to each other. To allay this evil shall

and to preserve harmony

with your neighbours as expedient

[illegible] I can learn you will find no one

[illegible] of the two districts who does not partake

strongly of early feeling, and therefore it becomes you

to act perfectly independent. Be civil to everybody

be just to everyone — hear all parties, but think

and act for yourself, for you alone will be responsible

Monsieur De Blanc the present Commandant

is represented to me as a man of information; but he

is reported to be strongly attached to one of the parties

I suppose however that you may make him useful

you can work with a view of conciliating his good will

towards our Government. I have given him a

Commission as Deputy Civil Commandant for the

Attakapas District. In the absence of a Deputy

Commandant was appointed by the French Commissary;

you will enquire into his character, and if you find

it respectable, it is my wish that he be continued.

The unfortunate division which exists in the

Attakapas settlement, owes its rise principally to

the prosecutions of a man of the name of St. Julien

charged under the Spanish Government with the murder

of his wife. During the short time which the French

authorities

authorities [illegible] in Louisiana, St. Julien was liberated by the Prefect under an engagement for his appearance whenever he might be called upon by the tribunal of Louisiana. The friends of St. Julien are influential people and are desirous that the matter should be organized into. The friends of St. Julien are numerous & view him as a persecuted man and charge his prosecutors as the real murderers. St. Julien solicits an ongoing avid claims an opportunity of clearing his character from so infamous an allegation. To accomodate the wishes of all parties, and the society in general, I have that so soon as it may be convenient after your arrival at the Natchez, you will appoint a time and place for the taking of depositions for, and against St. Julien, giving previous notice thereof to St. Julien, and to a Captain Alexander Declouet who seems most desirous to maintain the charges which have been exhibited against St. Julien.

You will act on this occasion with great deliberation and impartiality. The depositions being taken you will forward them to me by some safe opportunity.

The same powers in civil matters which were heretofore exercised by the civil commandant under the Spanish Government, you will consider yourself vested

wished with, and you will [illegible]
fees for your services, as the fun[illegible]
upon these points you may acquire particular in-
formation from your predecessor.

You will be careful to preserve a record of all
your official acts, and keep me advised from time to
time of the state of your district.

Doubtful questions and cases of great importance
which can admit of delay, are to be reported to me,
and I shall thereupon transmit your particular instruc-

Captain Worthington of Kentucky, a
Revolutionary officer, who is now poor and aged, has
a claim against an inhabitant of the Attakapas; I
will be pleased to give Capt. Worthington a passage in
your boat, and on your arrival, inquire into the nature
of his demand, and if you find it just, endeavour to
obtain for him payment. If the demand should exceed
your jurisdiction, the case must be reported to me for
decision; but I should suppose that the claim be
just, a settlement between the parties might thro'
your agency be effected.

In making you civil Commandant of the
district of Attakapas and Opelousas, I have given
you a strong proof of my confidence in your judgment
and

and deserters. You will cautiously guard yourself against the intrigues of the disturbed, and keep aloof from all their party feuds.

I shall expect to hear from you very frequently, and should you be enabled to procure good land and a more healthy & settlement where there is not great contention, you will meet, and will receive my sincere thanks.

Accept assurances of my great respect and esteem.

[Signed] Wm C. C. Claiborne

Lieut. Colonel Commandant

An Ordinance

William C. C. Claiborne Governor of the Mississippi Territory, exercising the powers of Governor General and Intendant of the Provinces of Louisiana

Decrees—

That from and after the passing of this ordinance it shall not be lawful for the Harbour-master of the Port of New-Orleans, to exact or receive fees from any barges, flats or

other craft, any thing herein to the
contrary notwithstanding. And I do
hereby authorize the Harbour Master to cause all
vessels at the Port of New Orleans, to depart
from the least at such place or places on the levee
as the Municipality of the City shall from time
to time designate.

Given under my hand and the seal of
Administration at the City of New
Orleans, on the 16th day of January,
the year 1804, and of the Independence
of the United States the twenty eighth

By the Governor
Tho. H. Williamson Secr.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

Sir, New Orleans January 17. 1804

I inclose my last letter, I have organized in this
City four companies of volunteers one of which they are
armed with Public muskets, appear to possess an ardent
military spirit and a sincere attachment to the United
States.

On yesterday I received an address from the free
people of colour; the original of which I now enclose for
your

your funeral. To this address I made a verbal response;
they were informed that under the Constitution of the United
States their liberty, property and life, were safe,
and that their conscience was the peculiar and boasted
of the American government would not suffer them
become acquainted with its principles and the customs
and country with which I was associated. With
respect to the return of their military dresses, I observed
that I should not attempt a power not given to
the military until I had received particular instructions
from the President; that in the mean time they would
remain in the same situation in which the French
Government had placed them. I confidently
offering assurances of my confidence in their military
zeal, and in the sincerity of their professions of
attachment to the United States.

The difference between the French Commissioner and his officers still exists. The French Captain of the Navy who remained in a private letter, continues in confinement. It is probable measures to treat this officer with regard to this insult to the Depot had proceeded remained by the authorities of the United States, the Prefect from awarding our have been checked, and encouraged by the example, the enemies of the French Commissioner

who are still here, might
to assign their reasons for opposing
sufficient evidence of their angry spirit, we have suff
first revolted measures are essential to the preser
tion of harmony.—

On yesterday morning I received inform
that a vessel with French troops to the number
of about two hundred, from on board the Fren
Sloop of War had entered the mouth of the
Cape Fear and was destined to this City: t
intentions was very distressing to
of persons and infected with the disease
which from two to seven died every day. I
were immediately issued to prevent the
passing Fort Caswell and the Commanding
Officer at that Post was instructed to contribute
all in his power to the comfort of the distressed
on board. & for further better to meet respe
pose to be taken from the Communication of this date.
I also inform that it would more profusely have
devolved upon myself as Governor of the Province
to direct measures relative to this vessel and crew,
but finding that General Wilkinson was disposed to

assist

divide with me the responsibility, I have consulted myself of his advice and prompt assistance."

At the request of the Commissioners of Merchants I take the liberty to commit to your care the enclosed memorial and memorial

Have the goodness of you to select some members present it to Congress.

Accept assurances of my high and respectful consideration

To Hon. Wm. C. C. Claiborne

Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne

Secretary of State

An Ordinance

Of William C. C. Claiborne

Governor of the Mississippi Territory,

exercising the powers of Governor General

and Intendant of the Province of

Louisiana

Until provision shall be made by Congress for the government of Louisiana

It is decreed,

That the Court of Pleas of the City

of New Orleans is hereby [illegible] duly
to have and take cognizance of all matters
to the due administration of the estate of persons d
or intestate within the said City and the limits
thereof, and to grant letters of administration
on the premises to such persons as shall be thereto
entitled, and to demand and receive from such
administrators such securities as may be thought
expedient for the due execution of the trust re
[illegible] reposed, and to prescribe certain term
of time for the due administration of such
estate, and at the expiration of such time,
required, have examined, and if true, rec
or amend the accounts of such administration:
and in all things to take care that the estate
of persons dying intestate as aforesaid, shall
be faithfully, honestly and oeconomically administered
to the best advantage of the representative
of the deceased.

Given under my hand, and the seal of the
administration, at the City of New Orleans,
the 19th day of January, in the year 1804,
and of the independence of the United
States the 28th

By the Governor, [illegible] Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne.

61

An Ordinance

By William C. C. Claiborne
Governor of the State of Louisiana
Exercising the powers of Governor General
and Intendant of the Province
of Louisiana

Be it ordained

That the levee in front of the City
of New Orleans, and for six leagues above and
below the Mississippi on each shore shall
be committed to the care and jurisdiction
of the Municipality of the City of New Orleans.
Such citizens Proprietors or claim holders bordering
on the river and within the above prescribed
limits and all others whom it may concern are
hereby required to conform to such regulations
and to execute such measures as the Municipal
body may from time to time direct for the
suitable repairs and preservation of the levee
as aforesaid.

Given

Given under my hand
at Government House, in the City of New Or
the 20th day of January, in the year 18
and of the independence of the United
States the twenty eighth.

By the Governor
Sign'd
Wm C. C. Claiborne

Jno. W. Hollman Sec.

New Orleans January 20. 180

Sir

The officer commanding the French
Brig from St Domingo, now at anchor in the
Mississippi river.

Being informed that your crew and company
are infected by a contagious disease, it becomes
incompatible to the safety of the inhabitants
of this Province that you should be permitted
this order, fail not, then to leave and come to
below the Fort of Plaquemines, without suffering
any person to land from your vessel. I lament
the necessity of this rigorous treatment, but it is
enjoined

formed by the principles of self-preservation, and the obligations attached to my particular station.

The officer commanding at Lafayette, has orders to do every thing in his power for your comfort, and that of the unfortunate fugitives who accompany you, and every additional comfort in my power to offer will be most cheerfully contributed.

I am Sir respectfully

Your Obt. Servant

Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne

Governor General Lieutenant

of the Province of Louisiana

William C. C. Claiborne

Governor of the Mississippi Territory

exercising the powers of Governor general

and Lieutenant of the province of Louisiana

Lewis St. Pierre has permission to return to

the Attakapas, and is directed to report himself

to the Commandant of the Attakapas, who is

instructed by me to enquire into the truth of the

charge which has been exhibited against him.

[illegible] St Julien [illegible]

[illegible] St Julien is [illegible]

to appear [illegible] he may be called upon by

between [illegible] of Louisiana.

Given under my hand the 22nd day of

January in the year 1804

Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne.

New Orleans January 24. 1804

Sir

The enclosed dispatches relating to

proceedings of the people in upper Louisiana to

United States, being of great importance I have

request that you will cause them to be forwarded

by Express to Natchez, from whence the

commanding officer will transmit them to Kaskaskias

You may charge to me the expence which

may be incurred on this account, have the good-

ness to transmit me the necessary orders to enable

me to obtain the amount from the United States.

I am Sir respectfully

Your Ob. Serv.

Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To the P. Master

at Natchez T.

(Please [illegible] me the receipt you

you may draw a bill after me for the amount
of the expence and it shall be immediately paid.

Signed Wm Wirt

Sir New Orleans January 21st 1804

The French vessel which I mentioned to
you in my last letter has been brought to at Biloxi
Mine, but not having yet received an official
report from the officer I am unable to give you
a particular account of the passengers —

The funds allowed by the Treaty for the
withdrawing the French and Spanish forces from
the ceded territory expires the 30th inst and little
or no preparations is made for an evacuation. The
Commissioners of the United States addressed a letter
to Mr Laussat on yesterday and urged the short
expiration of the treaty in this particular, his answer
is not yet received.

The Spaniards have in this City & vicinity
about two hundred men and nine Duty officers;
they retain a part of the barracks, and the public
warehouses are still occupied by their military
stores. But otherwise the United States experience

no enquiry by their re[illegible] City [illegible]
since the Citizens [illegible] City [illegible]
-mission has conducted themselves with [illegible]
propriety and manifested a friendly disposition
towards those of the United States. The Spanish
troops are in excellent subordination and have
in the least degree infringed the harmony of the
City. I cannot speak equally favourable of the
French forces, these in[illegible] are inconsiderable; I
believe they have no soldiers, but five sailors and
only eight or ten officers: but some of these are mischie-
vous riotous, disorderly characters, and have contribu-
greatly to interrupt the harmony of this City. There
are also in New Orleans between twenty and thirty
young adventurers from Bourdeaux and St Domingo,
who are troublesome to this society; they are men of
some information, desperate fortunes, and inflated
with an idea of the invincibility of Bonaparte
and the power of the French nation; they feel
mortified at the possession of this province by the
United States, and seem determined to sow the
most baneful discord as much as possible with the American
government. The means they use are the dissemination
of false hood & lies, among the ignorant and credulous,

has

[illegible] current [illegible] spirit [illegible] to [illegible] among the creoles of the country [illegible] natives of the United States who are here. Their [illegible] an extensive range for the display of their machinations, dispositions; the language, manners and habits of the people here are French, and a strong partiality still exists for the French nation, added to this the ignorance and credulity of most of the people, and here lies it the great source of misfortune. Misinformation is more generally diffused, the American government will not have fair play in the Provinces and an [illegible] allegiance may be secured by misrepresentations for the people may be made to believe any thing.

I consider that the diffusion of information among the people is essential to their political happiness and to the welfare of the American government that I would think it wise policy in congress to appropriate one hundred thousand dollars annually for the encouragement of schools in Louisiana.

Many of the citizens of New Orleans and its vicinity have expressed some ingratitude at not being invited to take the oath of allegiance to the United States, and I know that the Americans who are here censure me greatly for not calling upon

the people of Louisiana generally to take oaths of
a hostile and alleged character. I received it my duty
to await instructions from the President on this point.
In a proclamation upon this subject, it might have
been proper to define the limits of the ceded territory
and that I was not authorized to do. The impression
on my mind here is that West Florida is not included
in the cession to the United States. Mr Laussat
avows this opinion and in this particular the
Spanish Commissioners accord with him most heartily.
There are few men of fortune in New Orleans who
have been engaged in the land speculations in West
Florida and it is strongly suspected that the French and
Spanish officers who are here are also concerned
in these speculations. I should suppose
however that this question must be decided by the
Treaty, and it seems to me that a just construction
thereof would extend the cession eastwardly to the
limits of Louisiana as proposed formerly by France.
I believe myself that Spain is ready for cessions
to the west, and that it would be no difficult
task to obtain a cession of both Floridas for a
relinquishment of our claims to all the country west
of the Sabine rivers. I believe also, that if we come
to insist upon our claims (under the Treaty of cession)
to the

the country in Peace, Spain would be
obliged to concede, unless Cuba, she valued be
in some agreed in a refusal by France, upon the
hope of Louisiana offering evidence so truly an extension
that I suspect his feelings are either in unison with those
of his countrymen on the occasion, which are partially entertained
here, of his being concerned in the late speculation in
Florida lands unsuccessfully founded.

A detachment of troops under the command
of Lieutenant Hopkins have proceeded to the
Attakapas, and over that district I have appointed
to Hopkins civil Commandant — his agency
man of Prudence, good information and property
some knowledge of the French language. The
inhabitants of the Attakapas district, are divided
into factions, and much disorder prevails among them
A man of the name of St Julien an inhabitant of
Attakapas, and a zealous Frenchman, was charged
about six or eight months ago, by the then Spanish
Commandant of the district, with the murder of his
wife. St Julien was arrested, and committed to the
Jail of this City, where he remained until the Province
was surrendered to France, when St Julien was
released by the Prefect and the Commandant

of the district removed [illegible] releasing St Julien, [illegible] some preliminary remarks which were received by the Marquis de Casa Calvo as an infraction the honor of the Government of Spain excited in his breast angry sensations.

The Prefet however bound St Julien in a recognizance to appear whenever called upon by the tribunals of Louisiana.

Immediately on my arrival, my attention was solicited to St Julien's case. The Prefet and the Marquis manifested equal anxiety, and the acuteness seemed to excite much public solicitude. I determined to do nothing in the business; but to [illegible] his friends prayed that I would direct an enquiry in order that he might have his innocence, and the guilt of his accusers; the latter and their friends were equally solicitous for an enquiry, in order that they might free themselves from the suspicions of murder and persecution which had attached to them; I have therefore continued St Julien in his recognizance, and directed St Hopkins to examine witnesses for, and against St. Julien, and to forward the depositions to me, and await my further orders.

I have been thus particular on this subject, because I have understood that one Alexander

De Clouet

Dr. Clouet, who is Julien's [illegible] says [illegible] that great injustice is done him, as Julien is not being prosecuted to prison and that he contemplates seeking redress by a memorial to the President.—

There is another case in which Messrs. Roman give dissatisfaction to the parties, and they propose appealing to the President. A citizen of this place claims the land on which one of the Forts in this City is erected; he says the land was taken from him without any compensation by the Baron de Carondelet, and that the Treaty having secured to the inhabitants their property that enclosure will be violated if the ground is not immediately restored to him. This man was informed that the Forts of the City were surrendered to the United States, and could not be relinquished by me. That if he would state his case I would transmit it to the Executive, who would do him strict justice. The other day I granted permission to the Mayor of the City to remove the dirt from some useless outlines adjoining the Fort intended to repair a breach in the levée. The citizen again remonstrated, and says his private rights are violated, and that he must look to the President for redress.

1/2 as

Thus you see the [illegible]
[illegible] to give [illegible] to the [illegible] people.

Accept assurances of my high
and respectful consideration. —

Signed Wm C. C. Claiborne

The Hon ble
James Madison
Secretary of State

New Orleans January 24. 1804

I enclose you a list of the officers, public papers and documents of every description which may be surrendered by the Commandants of the different Posts, will remain in your profession, or with those whom you may authorize to receive them until further orders and I expect that the necessary precautions will be taken for their safe keeping.

The same powers in civil matters which

Heretofore were issued by the first civil Commandant of the District of Natchitoches under the Spanish Government, will devolve upon you, and I rely on your intelligence and zeal to discharge with fidelity and ability the trust committed to you.

If you find it expedient you may upon the vacancies of each Commandant in your district, appoint such characters to exercise their offices temporarily as you may deem most deserving.

You will be careful to transmit a record of all your official acts, and furnish me advices from time to time of the state of your district.

Accept assurances of my

consideration and regard

Signed W.C.C. Claiborne

Capt. Amos Stoddard

Sir,

I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 29th instant informing me that a certain Negro Villamil late steward of the Royal Ship of this place, had been adjudged by the Superior Tribunal and Royal Auditor's Accounts of these Provinces to be indebted to the King his Master in the sum of $7,000 dollars, and that certain slaves, the property of the said Villamil now in the public Deposite of this City, had been ordered by the Auditor of War, to be valued and sold and the proceeds paid into the Public Treasury, upon giving notice in the Gazettes of such sale, and previously registering of me my co operation.

I hasten Sir, to make known to you my assent to the said of the slaves aforesaid, in the manner you propose; I take the more pleasure in acceding to your request, since it presents an opportunity of evincing my readiness to promote the interest of your Sovereign, and to comply personally with your wishes.

Accept assurances of my great respect and high consideration.

Signed Wm C. C. Claiborne

Don Juan Ventura Morales
Intendant &c. &c. &c.

Sir,

New Orleans Jan 7. 28. 1804

I have been honored with the receipt of your several letters of the 21st 26th and 28th instant; the pressure of business has hitherto prevented me from considering them, but they shall shortly receive from me that respectful attention which they merit.

I have given to the Ball chaises orders to station a small detachment of mulatoes at the ball room in conformity to your request, and I sincerely hope that the fragrant emanations proceeding by the effluvia especially for the solace of the fastidious belly, will tend to the preservation of good order.

Harmony and social intercourse between society, and render life agreeable, it is therefore the duty and interest of every citizen to favour the views of the Municipality, and I do confidently trust that the amusements of the City will hereafter meet with no interruption.

Accept assurances of my great respect and high consideration

Mr. Bore

Mayor of N. Orleans.

/Signed/ Wm. C. C. Claiborne

Head Quarters

New Orleans January 28. 1804

General Orders: —

Colonel Villechase Commandant

of the Militia of New Orleans will, on

the evening of every public ball within the

City detach an Officer and fifteen men,

to attend at the ball room to be at the

disposal of such two members of the Mun-

icipality as may be charged with the

police of the ball on each evening respectively.

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

Governor General of the

Province of Louisiana

New Orleans January 31. 1804

A vessel arrived at this Port a few days since with fifty Africans negroes for sale. Being unwilling to furnish a barbarous a traffic so much forbid altogether one to prevent, I immediately applied to a Colonel Leonard Mestalle Spanish Contador at this place — a man of great integrity of character, for information as to the laws and customs of Spain relating to the African Trade, and received from him a letter upon the subject which is herewith enclosed. Finding from Mr Leonard's communication that the bringing of Africans directly to Louisiana had been forbidden by the Spanish authorities, and declaring whether I was vested with power to prevent the sale the unfortunate has been left to pursue his own wishes. —

The vessel from St Domingo which I mentioned in my last, is still at Plaquemines. It seems that the passengers consisted chiefly of sick and wounded soldiers coming from Cape Nicholas Mole.

We have proposed to accommodate Hess

people at the Garrison
consider [illegible] allowed me with
But with Mr Compost's much dispatch
and [illegible] their being brought to N
Orleans. I have myself thought that we
were bound to extend to the people humane
and hospitable attentions; but that they means
doing so ought to be left to our own discretion.
I have also thought that the duty of neutrality
made it necessary made it necessary that we
should cause them to depart as soon as their
detention will enable them to proceed. Mr
is very averse to that departure, (Plaquemines
prescribed itself as the most proper position for
their temporary residence). Were they admitted
to this City, the soldiers would locate themselves in
the country, and the officers would await opportunities
to return to France in some neutral vessels.
Indulgencies of this kind might be complained
of by Great Britain. Our opinions with regard
to their departure are formed from the decrees of
neutrality as defined in Vattel's Laws of Nations,
and particularly in Section 133. Chapter 7. Book 3.

Ex 1

[illegible] for more particular information on this [illegible]
I will refer you to a letter from the Commissioners,
which you will receive by the same conveyance
I am sorry to inform you that some of
the French officers and citizens who are
to evidence a disposition to disturb
manifested at the late of this delightful Province,
and seem to foster great ill will to the Americans who
are here. Among these are some warm and
turbulent young men only. I can assure you there
but I regretted much at the same time to
perceive the harmony of the City
some unpleasant disturbances & feelings have
passed between Col. Laurens and the American
Commissioners, upon the disorderly conduct of some
of the French officers, which he declines and charges
it to the Americans. Copies of these letters will be
transmitted to you. I have reason however to hope
that no further disturbances will ensue. Every thing
is at present tranquil, and the most perfect good
understanding apparently exists between the natives
of the United States and those of America.

I the

The public ball room
all the [illegible] during the winter season
for many years, on a ball [illegible] week. Each
ticket admits a person who will pay at the door
5 Dollars, and the ladies of every rank attend the
assemblies in great numbers. In consequence
that the company is generally composed of a very
heterogeneous mass. To prevent disorder at these balls the
the Spanish Government strong guard was station
at the ball room, and on the first appearance of
disorder the persons concerned were committed.

On my arrival at New Orleans I found the
people very solicitous to maintain their public
ball establishment, and to convince them that the
American Government felt no disposition to break
in upon their amusements (as had been reported by
some mischievous persons) General Wilkinson and
myself occasionally attended these assemblies.—

Under the Spanish government the Governor
General was the Regulator of the ball, but this
gallant duty I have cheerfully surrendered to the
Municipality of the City.

I fear you will suffer — that I am wanting
in

respect in calling your attention to the bale
New Orleans; but I do assure you that they
occupy much of the public mind & have
have proceeded the greatest embarrassment I
have hitherto attended my endeavours.

The three months allowed by the treaty
for the withdrawing of the French & Spanish forces
have expired, but the evacuation has not yet taken
place. The proper steps are taken on this occasion
by the French and Spanish authorities.

A part of the papers have been delivered
to the American Commissioners, but many more
documents yet remain to be received.

I have experienced such repeated
interruptions, and my attention in the course of the
day has been so frequently called off to some official
business of the Province, that I cannot write you as
fully by this Post as I could wish.

I accept assurances of my great respect
and high consideration.

Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne

The Honble
James Madison
Secretary of State

P.S.

I enclose you a pamphlet, being the vindication of Adjutant General Bauthez, who has had a serious quarrel, tending with Mr Laussat. As I do not like meddling in matters to you.

M. C. C.

New Orleans January 31. 1804

I received your letter in which you make a paragraph in one of your late letters to him, where speaking of the vessel in which I embarked at Natchez for coming to this place, you observe that "the mode you have taken, not the most judicious, but that the necessity of the case might justify the measure". Your view of the subject is entirely correct; the exigency of the case lead me to the measure. My letters from the Government urged a speedy movement of the Army; advices from Mr Livingston and Mr Clark evinced great solicitude for the arrival of the American Commissioners at New Orleans, and the commanding officer at Fort Adams stated the want of the necessary means of transport for the cannon and fixed ammunition

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] property of chartering
the Schooner. The militia were [illegible] near
Natchez, and in readiness to [illegible] the owner
of the Schooner was absent, and as the most
advisable step which under existing circumstances
could be taken, that vessel was employed.
Her usefulness [illegible] has been fully proven
by you. I give my opinion that if this vessel had not
been employed, [illegible] would have been longer
detained at Fort Adams. The boats which had
been prepared at that Fort were scarcely sufficient to accomodate the men; they were flat-
bottomed and many of them old and crazy.
The provisions, cannon, powder and fixed ammunition
were all conveyed in the Schooner. The vessel
was retained in service about three weeks after
her arrival at New Orleans; she could not
be discharged sooner; for during that time
no place of deposit for the articles she brought
could be procured. From this circumstance
the charge of the Schooner will be heightened,
but I trust no blame will attach to me—

that account.

I regret that the taking possession of Louisiana has been attended with such g[illegible] publick inconveniences; but under existing circumstances it could not be avoided. The cost from Tennessee will cost several thousand dollars as only have been remitted for services during last at the rate called for the measure was adopted. I do sincerely believe that the firm determination of Government to protect themselves of the services by their military movements, had great weight in influencing the Spanish authorities surrendering the Province so promptly to the French Commissioners.

I procured some supplies for the militia; which the accounts are all sent to you will advise you thereof. The amount is not considerable; the principal items are Knapsacks, and utensils for cooking. I also furnished them with a few blankets. —

A late letter from Mr Dinsmore

[illegible] State [illegible]
the Chickasaw nation. She [illegible] has
received two hundred dollars on [illegible] account
of his relation, Colonel [illegible] and desires [illegible]
satisfaction.

I understand that the Chickasaw agent might
be induced [illegible] to sell their claim to the
[illegible] river. If this purchase can be made
would it [illegible] the Natchez [illegible]
remarks who so frequently encroaches [illegible]

Accept assurances of my great
respect and high consideration

Signed Wm A. Bradford

The Hon[ble]
Henry Dearborne
Secretary of War

General Orders.

[illegible] the men composing the [illegible]
militia of the right bank of the
Mississippi, who have not yet joined
the annual volunteer companies
of New Orleans, are hereby called to their com-
panies respectively, and will be duly accordingly
noted. In future the Officers commanding
companies are not to enroll any non-commissioned
officer or private belonging to the regular
corps.

Colonel Bellechasse will cause
this order to be communicated and enforced

Signed Wm C C. Claiborne
Governor General
of Louisiana

New Orleans Feb: 4. 1862

Dear

On yesterday we had nearly witnessed in this City a serious riot. A guard of Spanish soldiers being on duty at the house of the Alcalde the base Cuban who was himself absent, and who much entopathy made an attack upon a sentinel who was posted there. The citizens interfered and beat off the Spaniards. One citizen was slightly wounded and a Spanish soldier very much beaten. Early information of this fracas having reached me I communicated the same to the Spanish commander the Spanish troops, and requested that the guard might be immediately relieved and the aggressors confined; all which was promptly done: and the riot was instantly quelled, which in the beginning had a very alarming aspect. When the guard was relieved (the guard consisted of twelve or fourteen men and within whose view there was a detachment of Spanish dragoons) there had collected about two hundred citizens, who were apparently much enraged, and solicitous for a battle.

I have for some time viewed the hanging

of this city in some
for a mob are abundant
vigilance & prompt disorder & tumult
hea from several different nations
and among them many vagabonds
Port American, French and Spanish
whom there exists no cordiality.
French and Spanish citizens
possess a great share of national pride and
jealousies and resentments: might easily be
excited in this city some
who would excite men to act to the
authority, and to subsist by the force
even a temporary thought. Such men will attri-
bute to what they please to term my timidity and
want of firmness every little disorder which
has or may hereafter arise; and it is not improbable
but representations upon this point either have or
may shortly through indirect channels reach the
Executive. In reply to them I beg leave to
state that my great object has been to impress
forcibly upon the inhabitants, the justice, the
moderation — in a word the principles of the
American

American Government; and to enlist in support
the new order of things, the affections of the People.
That fear, fury and even calm reflection, are productive
has no charms for me; and to seek a state of
pure anarchy. When indeed the occasion demands
and of which, without special instructions from the President
I shall judge for myself) I will express with promp-
titude and energy the great discretionary powers
entrusted to me; but I do trust and believe that the
conciliating and mild policy which hence, I shall
continue to observe will promote the welfare and
harmony of the Province.

I will endeavour to make you another
communication by this post.

Accept assurances of my
respectful consideration

Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne

The Hon.ble
James Madison
Secretary of State

To Beverly Chew esq

Sir

I wish to commit to your care
receipt and delivery of the letters
If you will undertake the duty, you will
hereafter charge and receive such rates
letters and other packets as are directed
on letters &c passing through the streets
and in general be guided by the rules and
regulations established by the Post Master
General for the government of the different
Post offices throughout the United States
as far as may be practicable.

You will continue to discharge the duties
here required, until provision shall be made
by Congress on the premises.

Accept assurances of my respectful consideration

[Signed] Wm. C. C. Claiborne

By William C. C. Claiborne Governor of the Mississippi Territory exercising the Powers of Governor General & Superintendant of the Province of Louisiana

Whereas by an Ordinance passed on the 20th of January last the levee in front of the City of New-Orleans for sundry leagues up and down the Mississippi River on each shore, was committed to the care and superintendance of the Municipals and Whereas it is essential to the security of the property of the citizens generally that the measures for the preservation of the levees which may from time to time be directed, should promptly executed,

It is decreed:

Art. 1st That it shall be the duty of the several Syndicks, to carry into effect such measures touching the levee as the Municipality may direct; and in all cases where the owner or owners of land, shall refuse or neglect to make timely repairs to the levee as prescribed and the same shall have been made by

order of the Mayor

of either of the Syndicates,

or such body of police or persons as may

be acting as aforesaid, any one or more of the

shall have authority, and it shall be his

duty to estimate the value of the goods so

and to give judgment for the same, which

shall be final by the owner, of the

and in case of delay or refusal to make payme

such Syndicate or Syndicates, shall issue upo

against the property either real or personal, o

owner or owners, as aforesaid — Provided

that nothing herein contained shall be so

construed as to authorize the sale of any lan

belonging to the United States.

And Whereas doubts have arisen in relation to

the proper authorities for superintending the

levees beyond the jurisdiction of the Municip-

-palities as defined in the Ordinance of the

20th of January last past.

It is decreed:

Art. 2nd That the several Commandants of

Districts

Duties and the Syndicks, are hereby
declared to be vested with the same powers
for the preservation of the levées upon their
respective districts, as was heretofore exercised
by them under the Spanish Government.

Given under my hand and the seal
of the administration at the City of
New Orleans, the 5th day of
February in the year 1804 and
of the Independence of the United
States the 28th

By the Governor,
Wm. Wilkinson Sec.

Signed W.C.C. Claiborne

New Orleans Feby 5. 1804

Sir,

I have received your letter of the 21st ult.o
accompanied by an address from a number of the
inhabitants of the Attakapas District.

You will be pleased to make known to
these people individually, the great pleasure I
experienced in receiving assurances of their
attachment to, and confidence in, the govern-

ment

of the United States.

to declare to them that [illegible]
acquainted with the just and liberal views of
the American Government, and the equitable
principles with which they are animated;
the more will their attachment & confidence
increase.

The patriotic zeal you have
yourself expressed on the interesting event
which is the subject of the address, has
confirmed the good opinion heretofore con-
-ceived of your understanding and integrity;
and for the respectful expressions towards
myself personally, I owe you a warm acknow-
-ledgement. ——

Accept assurances of my high
consideration and respect.

Signed Wm C. C. Claiborne

Capt. Louis Deblanc
Dep. Civil Commandant
Attakapas District

Sir New Orleans February 6. 180

New Orleans at this time is perfectly tranquil and I fear of no disturbance in any part of the Province. The inhabitants generally manifest great solicitude for a form of Government and the merchants of this City in particular await with great anxiety some communication.

I believe a decided majority of the inhabitants continue well disposed to the Government of the United States, but there is certainly a strong party here fixed in their attachment and devoted to the interest of France. The emigrations from the French West Indies Islands is considerable; a vessel is now in the river with about one hundred French citizens on board, and a ship is known to have sailed from Jamaica for New Orleans with several hundred Frenchmen who were refused an asylum in that Island. I do not think that these are the best description of settlers for Louisiana but if they seek a residence here it cannot I suppose be refused to them.

In a former letter I named to you that an impression was received in some circles, that

Louisiana could rede

of the present European war

prevails and it has required ad

to remark which Mr Ledyard is

made. that "the harvests of Louisiana

not yet accrued to the United States." I do

know that this remark is prop

Mr Ledyard, but it is so

of a man of some

I should not regret Mr Ledyard's depar

from Louisiana, if he felt some chagrin at

of this Executive authority, and manifests a

disposition to interfere in the internal pol

Province. While he remains among us his conduct

will be solicited and pursued by many of the

citizens, and I doubt much whether on all

occasions these councils would be consistent

with the interest of the United States. Mr.

Ledyard possesses handsome talents, and in

private life is an agreeable man; but as a

public character I am not one of his admirers.

He is always intemperate, and often assuming;

relying with confidence upon the infallibility of

his

own sentiments, he [illegible] to respect to the opinion
of others, when offered to him. The Spanish Commissa
and Mr. Laussat were early afterwards joined the Amer
Commissioners have of late found it impossible
preserve a perfect good understanding with him
they would yield on all occasions to his wishes, whe
could not be done consistently with our duty.

I beg leave to assure you of my great respe
and best consideration.

Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne

The Hon^ble
James Madison
Secretary of State

New Orleans Feb^y 7. 1804

Sir,

I consider those surveys of lands which wa
made by permission of Cap^t. Vidal, after the cession
of Louisiana to the United States, as conferring n
title either in law or equity: these lands are therefo
in my opinion vacant, and as I have no authority
to permit the lands of the United States in Louisian
to be settled, I can delegate none to you. In
a very few weeks Congress will make some
permanent provisions for the government and

disposition of our near [illegible]
until the provisions we have made
can prevent the evil[illegible]
duty to prevent the[illegible]
trust therefore, claim your fullest exertion
on this occasion.

Accept a pur[illegible]
consideration

Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

Major T. H. Claiborne
Commandant District of Concord.

Sir,

New Orleans February 7. 18[illegible]

A packet for Capt. George W. Barnwell
at the Chickasaw Bluffs, has been addressed to
your care. Should Mr. Samuel Mitchell be
at Natchez, you will deliver the packet to him,
with direction to have it sent to the place of
its destination. If however he has returned to
the Nation, you will enclose it to him there
with instructions as coming from me, that he will
take the proper measures for having it forwarded to
the Chickasaw Bluffs with all convenient dis-
patch— the expense of which is to be defrayed
by

by the United States

Accept assurances of my
respectful consideration
Signed Wm C. C. Claiborne

Major F.L. Claiborne

New-Orleans February 9th 1804

Sir

I have had the honor to receive your letter
of the 6th instant

The precautions recommended by the
Government, with respect to the introduction of
negroes and free mulattoes from the Antilles into
this Territory, appear to me highly expedient, and I
shall with pleasure and promptitude give the necessary
orders upon this subject to the Commandants of
Plaquemines and the Balize.

I shall also give such general instructions
to officers commanding different Posts as will serve to
prevent masters of vessels from facilitating the escape
of slaves from the service of their owners.

Accept assurances of my respectful
Consideration.

M. Boré
Mayor of N. Orleans

Signed Wm C. C. Claiborne

By William C. C. Claiborne
Governor General and Intendant of the
Province of Louisiana
To all to whom these presents shall come
Know Ye
Permission to establish
for the purpose of carrying on trade with
Inhabitants of that district such
as may erect Post

This permission is to continue in force
during the pleasure of the Governor for the time
being or until provision shall be made by
Congress for regulating trade and intercourse
with the Indian tribes west of the Mississippi river.

Given under my hand and the
seal of the administration at the
City of New-Orleans the 8th day
of February 1804 and in the 28th
year of American Independence.

By the Governor
Thos. Williams Secr.

Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne

New Orleans, February 9. 18

(P)

You will proceed with all convenient dispatch to the different Parishes or Districts of the City or Suburbs of New Orleans, and also to those on the East of the Mississippi adjoining the same as high up as those of Baton Rouge, and make such appointments of Commandants for the same. In all cases where the former Commandants or citizens of respectability are willing to serve under the United States (and is not objected to for character by you) I wish them re-appointed; but if they decline a re-appointment you will nominate successors. You are furnished with blank commissions and instructions which you will fill up with the names of the persons you may select as Commandants of the different districts.

In charging you with this mission, I have given a high proof of my confidence in your discretion and judgment.

In

In selecting

be a great recommendation,

attachment to the Government of the United States

you must carefully endeavour to ascertain

You will endeavour to the Federal Commis-

-sioners, as they arrive, in order, the

your conversations with them, to endeavour

to impress upon their minds the prosperity of

advantages that must result from a cordial justice

of preserving good order in this quarter of the

In your conversations with the people

generally you will give them assurances, that

under the government of the United States, their

liberty, property and religion will be protected;

that their political connection is now fixed,

and that whatever some mischievous or ignorant

men may insinuate, the Province of Louisiana

will never revert to France, or be detached

from the United States.

On your return, you will make to me

a report in detail of your proceedings.

Wishing you health & happiness

I remain very respectfully, Yr. Ob. Servant

Genl. Watkins. Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne

By William C. C. Claiborne Governor of the Mississippi Territory exercising the powers of Governor General and Intendant of the Province of Louisiana

To all who shall see these presents

Know Ye that Doctor John Watkins with certain Parcels of Dutch merchandize charged with public business in pursuance of my instructions.

Given under my hand and the seal of the administration at the City of New Orleans the 9th day of February 1804 and in the 28th year of American Independence.

(Signed) Wm C. C. Claiborne

New-Orleans February 9th 1804

To Messrs
A. D. Tureaud
&
Samuel Winters

Gentlemen,

In a matter of dispute

relating to some comm

Captain Clarence Gale

in which Benjamin Morgan

parties have by my agreement agreed that the

should be submitted to an

Gentlemen have been elected two of

arbitrators, with the

who shall also act

two of you shall be final and

on the parties.

You will oblige me Gentlemen,

undertaking this business, and advising

parties of the time when and the place where

it may be convenient for you to hear the case.

You will be good enough to enclose

me a copy of your awards.

Accept Gentlemen assurances of

my respectful consideration,

Signed Wm C. C. Claiborne

New Orleans Jr. 07. 12. 1804

Sir,

Mr. Archibald Thurman has represented to me that a quantity of Timber belonging to you at the Bayou St. Jean which was brought from Pensacola is stolen property. You will therefore suffer no removal on the present occasion until the claims of the owner can be ascertained.

I am respectfully
Sir
Your Obed. Servt.
Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne

W. Bond
Alcalde of New Orleans

New-Orleans February 13. 1804

Sir,

To preserve the garden adjoining the Government House, and to have it put under cultivation for the comfort and convenience of the permanent Governor, are considerations which appear to me worthy of attention. To meet these

object [illegible]
the [illegible]
detached [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
the necessary [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
which may be [illegible]
arrangement shall be [illegible]
[illegible]
case of your absence that the [illegible]
shall accrue to the senior officer in the
place.

I am Sir
very respectfully
Your Obt. Servt
[Signed] Wm. C. C. Claiborne

General Wilkinson

Sir

New Orleans feby. 13. 18

I continues without any change from the Department of State since my arrival in this City. Two mails from the seat of government are now due. The failure is attributed to the high waters in the wilderness between Natchez and Nashville. — Congress has made great improvements in the Post Department and great facilities for the passage of the mails, but it is impossible for him to controul the elements which at this season of the year expose occasional interruptions.

The state of things in this City remains as they were at the date of my last letter. The Spanish and French forces are still here, preparations for an evacuation are making, but they progress slowly. The archives and document recognized in the Treaty are not all delivered, but they are promised in a few days.

The merchants of New-Orleans are becoming extreamly impatient for some commercial regulation and the anxiety of the people generally for some permanent government greatly increases.

[illegible] the [illegible] of [illegible] to
Orleans [illegible] the [illegible] people to
Jefferson [illegible] of the Governor's Co
but [illegible] of so [illegible] [illegible]
that I am [illegible] to [illegible] federal powe
the [illegible] after tomorrow [illegible] a spec
Court in which [illegible] day [illegible]
from the [illegible] [illegible] cases until
[illegible] [illegible] for some [illegible] government
shall relieve me from this painful duty.

The population of Louisiana [illegible]
advance [illegible] rapidly. Every boat from the
Western Country, and every vessel from the Atlantic
States, bring hither adventurers; among them are
many valuable emigrants, but there are others of
desperate fortunes, and well calculated to increase
the dissipations which is fostered in New-Orleans,
and pervades more or less the whole Province.

I appointed a few days ago a Mr.
Clemelez, who had been represented to me as
honest capable man, Civil Commandant of a
District

District of [illegible] Mississippi.
District is inhabited from [illegible] of [illegible]
indolent, ignorant people [illegible] from [illegible]
Islands who adopt those Creeds [illegible] little
attachment for any one [illegible] Tendency of the
Catholic is said to be of [illegible] Extraction [illegible]
this account (as [illegible] other regions unknown to me)
by no means a [illegible] with his neighbours who
manifested disquietude at the appointment [illegible]
Few are imprudent enough to talk [illegible] recognize
him as their lawful Commandant. [illegible] affairs was
represented to me as an alarming event, and the
measures on my part were adviced. In pursuance
however of that conciliating Policy which I have
adopted, I sent for some influential characters
of the District and on this day had an audience
with them; — they professed attachment for the
Government of the United States, respect for its
Officers, and a determination to be obedient to the
laws; but as well for themselves as their neighbours,
they entreated me to nominate for them an other
Commandant: I determined to grant their
request, and they have returned to their home

appointed will pl

this

[illegible]

of Washington

great

Accept

and re

Signed

The Hon

James Madison

Secretary of State

New Orleans February 16 1804

Sir

Inclosed herewith you will receive an account with the necessary vouchers for sundry supplies in the Indian Department amounting to one hundred and fifteen dollars and thirty nine cents. For this sum I have drawn on you this day at five days sight in favour of Peter L. B. Duplessis.

You will observe that the account states the payment of a quarter's salary to David Berry an Indian

Indian [illegible] specifying [illegible]
believe it [illegible] for the quarter ending the 30th
September 1803— tho' compelled by [illegible] with [illegible] not
having it in my power [illegible] to my [illegible]
Journal which is at [illegible] I have [illegible]
that a reference to the books of the Accountant for
the Department of War will remove all difficulty
in this respect.

Accept assurances of my high
and respectful consideration

Signed, W. C. C. Claiborne

The Hon
Henry Dearborn
Secretary of War

I accept assurances of my
high respectful consideration.

Signed W.C.C. Claiborne

His Excellency
Governor Poindexter.

[illegible] February 18

Major Claiborne's [illegible] of February [illegible]
the express mail from Natchez to [illegible]
expired, but I have requested [illegible]
mail as usual, and to [illegible] Post
Master General the guantum of compensation
and which I presume he will grant.

The necessity of keeping up a regular
intelligence between this City and the Atlan-
tic has led me to make this arrangement and
hope it will meet the approbation of the
Executive.

I committed the opening and clos-
the express mail to a Mr Bewly Chew of this
city. He has discharged this trust with great
fidelity, and supports the character of an honest
patriotic, industrious, capable American.

Mr Chew was authorized by me to
charge postage on all private letters conveyed
in the express mail from New Orleans to Natch
as the establishment was attended with ex-
pense, I thought it just to charge for the
conveyance of private letters as a means of

remembering me fa

the change

consumable to the direct

Post in the United Sta

Accept assurances of my sincere

esteem & regard

respect.

Yours

G. G. Blan

Gideon Granger Esq

Post Master General

New-Orleans Febru

I have the happiness to inform you that

good order continues to prevail in this City, and

I believe throughout the Province. The people

manifest great solicitude for some future govern-

-ment, but evidence at present great respect for

the existing authorities.

In my judicial character I receive

daily application. I put off my case that

can possibly admit of delay, in full expectation

that

[illegible] I shall be [illegible]
that a regular Judicial [illegible] Louisiana is established
by an act of Congress.

After the cession of Louisiana to the United States a number of settlements were made in different parts of the ceded territory on surveyed lands by permission of a Spanish Commandant under the direction of Concord and which they were desirous of settling and improving. In a letter in that early part which I received from Major Claiborne the present Commandant of Concord returned an answer of which the enclosed is a copy.

The lands in Concord are very valuable and will command liberal and immediate sales. I thought it my duty to continue them unincumbered with unjust claims until Congress should make some provision for the disposition of vacant lands in Louisiana. I have incurred greatly the displeasure of these speculators, and I learn that they already unite in calumniating me; but if my conduct in this particular meets the approbation of the Executive, I shall not regard the abuse or censure of others.

[illegible] Spanish

[illegible] and for [illegible]

of a speedy evacuation by [illegible]

[illegible] hope [illegible] Such [illegible] are

[illegible] as they are received and

[illegible] the [illegible] and I shall [illegible] Gov. Mitchell

with them return to the United States.

After [illegible] is closed [illegible]

Laws at [illegible] and the [illegible] Commissioners [illegible]

[illegible] things [illegible] City I should wish to learn from [illegible]

[illegible] whether [illegible] to [illegible] view them as [illegible]

[illegible] matter [illegible] the precedents

of foreign [illegible] I shall [illegible] on

this point because I learn that suits

will probably be commenced against them

so soon as it shall be known that our correspondence as Commissioners shall have closed.

Accept assurances of my high

and respectful consideration.

The Hon^ble
James Madison
Secretary of State

Signed Wm C. C. Claiborne

Sir,

February 18. 18

Since my letter of this morning the southern mail has arrived, but brought no letters from the Department of State.

The merchants of this city are extremely discontented with their present situation, & it was generally expected that the mail would have brought in the revenue act for Louisiana and its consequences. The disappointment is manifested in every place where we are heard to say, that the general government, however favourable and favouritisms leads like a fire when nearest you left to warmth; that Louisiana was too distant from the seat of government for her interests to be attended to. Such a sentiment as this, will at all times be improper, but at this particular period, it was highly imprudent; I have reprobated the suggestion, and will continue to do so whenever the occasion shall offer.

A gentleman from Natchez just arrived in this city, tells me, that my letter to Major Claiborne a copy of which was inclosed

[illegible] in my command
[illegible]
[illegible]
claims against me
[illegible]
[illegible] well know they will rem
[illegible]
[illegible] of abstraction of
[illegible] At the head of the
[illegible]
lawyer a violent
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

Accept assurances of my high
and respectful consideration.

Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne

The Hon.ble

James Madison

Secretary of State.

Sir,

New Orleans February 10. 1804

I have the honor of enclosing herewith a letter to the United States to Consul at Malaga requested of me passports or letters of protection. In obedience to instruction having been given me on this point, I have acted with some reluctance, but upon the fullest consideration of my best judgment I thought the request as reasonable, and have given to such applicant the instrument of writing which I have inclosed to you, provided the applicant had proved by his own, and the oath of another person taken before a Notary Public, that he was born, and the 20th of December 1803 (the day on which this Province was surrendered) an inhabitant of Louisiana. The attestation or Certificate of the Notary I have uniformly annexed to the passport.

I am thus particular on this point, under an expectation that if there is any thing wrong in the proceeding you will inform me thereof.

Accept assurances &c.

The Hon.ble
James Madison
Secretary of State

Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne

New

Sir

Your communication

I have

of

at such time as may

convenient, the

to belong

the Catholic

at your own

at the public

proceeding will be equally agreeable to

polite letter which you have addressed

on the present occasion

your respect for the constituted authorities

United States; and affords me

renewing to you assurances

shall always take an

of your loyalty, and of rendering you any

services.

I wish you health and happiness.

Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne

Don Juan Ventura Morales.

The Form in the form of a half
enclosed to the Secretary of State in the letter
of the 20th February 1804.

William C. C. Claiborne Governor
of the Mississippi Territory exercising the
powers of Governor General and Intendant
of the Province of Louisiana

To all to whom these presents shall come
greeting —

Know ye that the bearer hereof
A — B — is a citizen of the Province of
Louisiana, under the Government and protec-
tion of the United States of America —
These therefore are to request of all admirals,
Governors, Captains, Commandants &c. &c.
that the said A — B — a passenger on
board the ship or vessel called _____
whereof one _____ is master and bound
for _____ be permitted to pass to and
from said port or elsewhere without hinder-

or mutilation, and
be required hereof
Given under my hand and the
Office of Registration in the City of
New Orleans the day
of in the year of American
Independence
By the Governor Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne
Jno. H. Williams, D. Reg.

A Proclamation

By William C. C. Claiborne
of the Mississippi Territory
the Power of Governor General and
Intendant of the Province of Louisiana.

Whereas having been represented to
me that a number of negroes belonging
to citizens of Louisiana, had escaped from
the service of their masters, and were running
at large to the injury of such their owners;
and whereas I have been requested by
the

[illegible] ...ble ... City of
New Orleans, to take some measures to induce
those runaway slaves for the[illegible] to return to their
duty; and whereas it appears to be that the
fear of punishment might in many cases induce
such runaway slaves to remain in the woods and
swamps, where they are necessarily subject to
continued exclusion and compelled to seek
livelihood by plunder and to the great injury
and terror of the good Citizens, Now
I do therefore, enjoin and require all motives of humanity,
and a desire to do every thing in my power to
promote the welfare of the Province, I have
thought fit hereby to issue this my Proclamation
hereby earnestly exhorting all runaway slaves
immediately to return to the service of his, her
or their owner or owners, and as an inducement
to such return, I do hereby declare and make
known to one and all of those who have committed
no other offence but that of running away, that
he, she, or they shall receive no punishment of
any kind for the said offence — provided

such slave or [illegible]
[illegible] shall [illegible] from the date of [illegible]
[illegible] and shall be citizens of the
Province which it may concern are [illegible]
[illegible] to respect the [illegible] hereby
declared and to [illegible] their [illegible]
Each such runaway slave [illegible]
not [illegible] himself [illegible] of the
Proclamation, within two months [illegible]
shall not again [illegible] the benefit
[illegible] but will be pursued and
receive such punishment as their owners or
owners may under the law choose to inflict.

In order that no one may plead ignorance
of this amnesty, I direct that this Proclamation
be printed in the American and French
languages, published in the news papers, set up
at the public places in this City, and sent to the
different Parishes and districts.

Given under my hand, and the seal of the
administration, at the City of New Orleans,
the 21. day of February 1804, and in the 28.
year of American Independence.

By the Governor,
Thos. H. Williams. Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne

Proclamation

By William C. C. Claiborne Governor of the Mississippi Territory and Governor General and Commander in Chief of the Provinces of Louisiana.

Whereas I have received information that several attempts have recently been made to set fire to this City, I have thought fit to issue this my Proclamation, hereby offering a reward of four hundred dollars to any person or persons who shall discover the incendiary or incendiaries, to be paid on his, her or their conviction.

Given under my hand and the seal of the administration, at the City of New-Orleans, the 21st day of February 1804, and in the 28th year of American Independence

By the Governor Signed Wm C. C. Claiborne

Tho. H. Williams, Sec'y

An Act to [illegible]
the Police Powers
of the Municipal Corporation of the City of
Montreal & for the Preservation of Peace
and Order therein.

Art. 1st. The Municipality of the City of
Montreal shall have authority to
grant Licenses to keep the Respective
taverns Coffee Houses public billiard
rooms or shops for retailing spirituous
liquors within the City aforesaid, and the
Suburbs thereof.

Art. 2. The taxes laid on each and every
License as aforesaid, shall be paid at
the time of issuing the same, and the
monies arising therefrom are to be
deposited in the City Treasury to be
applied under the direction of the
Municipality, to such City purposes
as they may in their discretion deem
proper.

Given under my hand & the seal
of the Mayoralty of the City of
New-Orleans, this 5 day of February
1804, and in the 28th year of American
Independence.

By the Governor
Robt. Williams. Secy. Signed W. C. C. Claiborne

A Proclamation

By William C. C. Claiborne Governor
of the Mississippi Territory, exercising the
powers of Governor General and Intendant
of the Province of Louisiana.

A representation having been made
to me by Beverly Chew and Eugene Dorcier esqrs.
Justices of the Court of Common Pleas and
conservators of the peace in and for the City of
New-Orleans, that a sailor named Cecile,
belonging to the French merchant ship
Happy Star, commanded by Captain Pignot,

Reward of $200.

[illegible] the [illegible] of the
[illegible] from the [illegible] of
[illegible] Tavern Keeper on the
City, and [illegible] from the evidences adduced
there are [illegible] grounds to suspect that the
murder was committed by a Spaniard
named Lorca who left the [illegible]
[illegible] about the
[illegible] I have thought fit to offer this my proclamation
hereby requiring all [illegible]
civil and military within the Province
Louisiana, to make diligent search
said Lorca, and use their best efforts
[illegible] him apprehended and committed to
the Jail of this City, in order that he may be
brought to justice; and as a further inducement
for the apprehension of the said Lorca
charged with murder aforesaid, a reward
of two hundred dollars is hereby offered to
any person or persons who will arrest, and lodge
him in Jail, to be paid on his conviction
of the

Henry Clay

Given under my hand at the Office
of the Commissioners of the City of
New-Orleans this 24 day of Feb
1804, and in the 28th year of
American Independence

By the Governor
Signed W. C. C. Claiborne
Scott Williams Secr

New-Orleans February 25. 1804

Sir

your two letters of the 8th instant are now
before me, and I have perused with great satisfaction
the patriotic sentiments they contain.

I feel a great consolation in the assurance
you give me that you will discharge with
impartiality and justice the duties assigned to
you; and permit me to add that it is by pursuing
this course and this only, that an officer acting
under the authority of the United States, can receive
the approbation of his Government.

The valuation of the public edifices at
Point Coupée being a question between the French

and I pray it

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

States and [illegible] of Louisiana

I recommend your following [illegible]

attention.

Capt. Turner will deliver unto your hands a stand of American colours which you will display on the district of Pointe Coupée.

These colours are the national badge of a respectable and free people upon earth, and therefore cannot fail to contribute to the preservation of your district, to [illegible] care, protect and preserve it from peace or war they are to honor respect and defend it.

Accept assurances of my high consideration and respect.

Signed Wm C. C. Claiborne

Julien Poydras Esq.r
Civil Commandant
Pointe Coupée

Head

Sir

I have received your [illegible] Commandant
of the Post of Natchitoches on Red R
[illegible] 8
which you are to be [illegible] at eleven
of every day [illegible] to be communi
to me [illegible] remain on your post
until further orders, and I expect that
necessary [illegible] will be taken for
safe keeping.

The same [illegible] which has been by the Commandant
of Natchitoches under the Spanish Government,
will devolve upon you, and I rely on your
intelligence and judgment to discharge
with prudence and ability the trust
committed to you.

You will be careful to preserve a
record of all your official acts, and keep me
advised from time to time of the state of

your

your district.

Doubtful questions and cases of importance, which can admit of delay, will be reported to me, when I shall thereupon transmit your particular instructions.

Attachments in the Indian country at a great distance from New Orleans, you committing therefore to your discernment of what Detroit & Michilimackinac, given a proper regard to

The attachment of the people of Louisiana generally to the Government of the United States is an important object. Let the friendly disposition of the Indian nations and frontier settlements, particularly demands. To preserve this friendly disposition you are selected as the agent and I doubt not but your conduct will recommend you to the Government of your county.

Let it be your great care to cause good order to reign throughout your district and to conciliate the affections of your fellow by the observance of strict and impartial justice in all your

official proceedings

friendly

intercourse with the inhabitants

[illegible] any local parties

Natchitoches sincerely, you will

carefully [illegible] and be always on

against the wiles of designing men — be

all parties reflect maturely but act from

your own judgment, [illegible] will be

on the waters of Red River there re-

two small nations of Indians — the Pawnies Hairs,

who trade at the Post of Natchitoches. You will

receive these people with friendly attentions and

have an regard to their interest. No person is to be

permitted to trade with them who has not heretofore

been licensed under the Spanish authority, and

the purview for which such license was granted

has not expired, or who shall not produce a

license in writing from myself. —

Accept assurances of my respect and esteem.

Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne

Capt. Eddy - D. Turner

Comm. of Natchitoches

N.B. A letter of the same tenor and date was addressed

Civil Commandant of the Ouachitas District

New Orleans February 20. 1804.

Sir

The mail due on last week from the Northward arrived but brought no official dispatches. I fear the post has carried on the conveyance made under this date I had cause dispatches copies to the latter of all my official communications to you and forwarded them by Mr Isaac Hill who departed this city for the seat of government on last of three days.

No explanation has been received since my last letter. The French Brig Argo left this port yesterday - taken with her a few French officers, and I understand will also convey to France the French soldiers who were detained at Fort Plaquemines. —

I dined on this day with the Marquis de Casa Calvo. He told me that on this morning he received dispatches from his Court which announced the prospect of a continuance of peace between Spain and the European powers. It was also mentioned to me by a member of the

Marquess's family, that
considers the sole Commissioners of
of Spain Louisiana, and that his late colleg
was discontinued and a pensi
to return to the Low Lands, with the pay
of a Colonel. I was also informed by a
Spanish officer that in two or three days the
Spanish Forces would commence a movement
for Pensacola, and that about twenty th
the Spaniards would remove all their troops
and inhabitants from this City.

It is said that Pensacola is to be
strongly fortified, and that reinforcement
is ordered from Havana to St Augustine. It
is also stated with confidence that a large
force is moving from Mexico to the
Province of Texas. I will not be answerable
for the truth of these reports; I communicate
them to you as they came to me, and if they
be correct, which I am inclined to believe,
you can as well as myself form an idea
as to the object of these military preparations.

Genl.

General Wilkinson continually taking
his departure for Washington in the
fourteen days. I much question whether he
will be enabled to come to
Mr. Laussat the
to the American Commissioners all the
archives &c. appertaining to the sovereignty
of Louisiana.

The evacuation of the West
India Islands by the French is inevitable,
there are now on the Mississippi near seven
hundred French emigrants from
two or three other ports, filled with foreigners,
are daily expected. ——

Accept assurances of my
great respect and esteem

Signed W.C.C. Claiborne

The Hon.ble
James Madison
Secretary of State

[illegible] received [illegible] enclosing [illegible] proclamation offering an amnesty to all [illegible] engaged in [illegible] who shall return peaceably to their respective [illegible] and will take the necessary measures for having the proclamation [illegible] in the shortest possible time. I have the honor to request information of [illegible] is conducted.

I have the honor of my high consideration and respect

Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne

Major Ferdinand L. Claiborne
Acting Commandant
of the District of Concord

(An Ordinance)

By William C. C. Claiborne Esq^r
of the Mississippi Territory, exercising the powers
of Governor Commander in Chief of the
Province of Louisiana

Whereas it has been represented to me
that the Court of Pleas recently established in
the City of New-Orleans, from the great delay
of the Judges in the performance of their duty have
been so speedy in rendering judgments and awarding
executions thereon, as in many instances to produce
serious injury to debtors, who having effects from which
to pay their debts are nevertheless unable under the
circumstances of the Province to raise commercial
money therefrom, without great sacrifices;—

Now therefore, with a view to remedy
this inconvenience for the future, I do ordain and
establish the following rules to be observed in
the proceedings of the Court aforesaid——

1st No trial shall be had in less than ten days
after the defendant shall have been summon-
ed, or served with a copy of the writ

2.nd The service of no process issued
by the
Court, unless the same is served on the
defendant, or a copy thereof is left at his
or her place of abode with some free
person, to wit, to his or her family, or to the
family with which he or she may reside.

3.d No goods or chattles taken in execution shall
be sold unless sixteen days after the
same is seized, unless with consent of the defendant,
and no real estate whatever shall be sold
by execution until the same shall have been
duly advertised in one or more of the public
papers printed in the City of New Orleans
in four weeks successively in the American
and French Languages; nor in any other
manner than by public auction.

4.th No execution shall issue against the person
of any defendant residing in the City of
New Orleans, until it shall be ascertained
by the return of an execution or executions,
against his or her personal and real estate,
that sufficient personal or real estate cannot
be found to satisfy such execution.

5.th

5th No real estate shall be taken in execution unless it shall appear by the return of the officer that no personal estate is found sufficient to satisfy the same.

6th No person shall be taken in any civil process, unless the plaintiff shall make oath before one of the Justices, that he has reason to believe that the defendant will abscond without the jurisdiction of the Court before the process can be executed, and judgment awarded thereon.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Administration of the City of New-Orleans, the 25th day of February 1804, and in the 28th year of American Independence.

By the Governor Signed W.C.C. Claiborne.

Tho. H. Williams Sec.

Your letter of the 15th instant was
[illegible] Robert Williams. The
[illegible] delay prevents a good
example. It will tend to deter others from
committing [illegible] and murder, and to give
safety to those who exist by [illegible] either by
land or water.

The reference regarding the arrest,
confinement and execution of these abandoned
men seems to me to be a just charge against
the United States; they offended not against
the Barbary states, but made war on the
lives and property of all who fell in their
way and selected for their scene of action
positions where the united states are
particularly bound to extend protection to
her honest citizens. I shall however
write fully to the Secretary of State on this
subject and will commit my letter to Mr.
Robert Williams, who can timely make
such

such explanations as will greatly assist in the attaining our object.

It gives me real satisfaction to hear that the Territory is in a tranquil state. This pleasant state of things may be of short duration, and I am sorry to learn that your health is not yet restored.

Whenever it may be in my power to relieve this city I shall not fail to be made acquainted with my future destination.

Your letter upon the subject of War will be duly honored: The Surveyor will be directed to survey the lands of the United States, and Pioneers entitled to the same pay and rations as the regular troops of the United States. No special contract having been made for furnishing this detachment with provisions, it is left to you to see that you exercise a sound discretion in directing their supplies. I hope you have obtained regular vouchers

for all your distinguished
[illegible] of Government [illegible]
[illegible] such vouchers as are [illegible]
obtained [illegible]
[illegible] regulated.
[illegible] of
[illegible] and only exists on this cap
learn the proceedings of Congress in relation
to Louisiana [illegible] in other respects every
thing is quiet & as I have learned,
also tranquility prevails throughout the
Province.

With respect and esteem,

Sam. Dyer

Capt. Aide de Camp

Signed, W.C.C. Claiborne

Col. Leato West

New Orleans, feby. 28. 1815

To the Officer Commanding a Barge,
or
Boat

Sir,

You will proceed with the Barge under your command to the ship called the Lady Prevost now lying in the Balize, and receive on board such of the officers, seamen and passengers belonging to that ship as may be ordered to be landed at this City, and proceed with them to the Balize.

You will observe the strictest attention to humanity by doing every thing in your power to facilitate the passage of the boat to the ship aforesaid. ——

I am Sir respectfully,

Your Obedt Servant

Signed Wm C. C. Claiborne

New

Naval Officer commanding at

Port St Jean

Sir

It is represented to me that the

slaves employed as sailors on board the

schooner Frances and belonging to

Pierre Bailly have been detained at the

Fort — You will on the receipt of this

permit the said slaves to proceed wher-

soever their owners may wish.

I am &c. Wm C. C. Claiborne

An Ordinance

By William C. C. Claiborne, Governor of the Mississippi Territory, and exercising the powers of Governor General and Commander in Chief of the Province of Louisiana.

From and after the passage of this ordinance, each and every of the Justices of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the City of New Orleans, shall have authority to try and determine in a summary way all such causes which may be brought before them respectively, for the recovery of any sum not exceeding one hundred dollars. Provided nevertheless, that if either of the parties feel themselves aggrieved by the judgment of such magistrate, he or she shall have a right of appeal to the Court of Common Pleas, upon giving sufficient surety that the party appealing will abide by, and without delay, fulfil and perform the judgment to be finally rendered. And if the

[illegible] appellant in any
appeal such appellant besides the amount
of bail or costs shall pay at the rate
of [illegible] per Cent per annum
[illegible] for the damages as the appellee
may have sustained by the delay of proceeding
on execution.

Given under my hand and the seal
of the Commissioners at the City of
New Orleans the 1st day of March 1804
and in the 28th year of American Independence.

By the Governor
W.C.C. Claiborne

[illegible]

New-Orleans March 1. 1804

Sir

Annexed to your letter of yesterday I
am favoured with a copy of your communication
of the 5th February, the original of which I do
not recollect to have received.

The expence of detaining prisoners committed
for

for Services performed in the several Courts
of the Province & seat of the City, cannot be charged
on the City funds, but must be charged on
of the territorial Revenue, as soon as they shall
be designated and vested by the proper Authority
In the mean time I will pay the charges allowed
to in your letter out of the contingent fund so allowed
me — trusting the Legislature will take measures
to adjust and certify the amount due and
designate the persons to whom the charge accrued
and the place from which they were brought.

I am Sir very respectfully

Your Obt. Servt

Wm. C. C. Claiborne

The Hon.ble

The Mayor of the City

of New-Orleans.

Sir,

I have the representations of the Attorney
General connected with the complaint
of Mr Mitchell against the proceedings of the
officers of the Court of Common Pleas in the
case of the jurisdiction of said Court in
certain cases.

The encroachments complained against
shall previous to the receipt of your letter in
part remedied by increasing the powers of a
single magistrate, in all cases of civil cognizance of
all demands under one hundred dollars.

With respect to the fees of the officers,
the subject shall be inquired into, and such
decree made as shall appear to me best suited
to the general interests of my fellow citizens.

Accept assurances of my great
respect and high consideration.

The Hon^ble [illegible] Signed W.C.C. Claiborne
Recorder of the City of
New Orleans.

William C. C. Claiborne Governor
of the Mississippi Territory exercising
the powers of Superintendant of Indian
Affairs of the Southern District
of the United States &c.

To all to whom these presents shall come

Know ye, that Samuel Davies
Shawneetown has permission to establish a trading
house at each of the towns of Natchetoches
and Nachitoches for the purpose of carrying on
trade with such of the Indian tribes, or
as may choose to visit those towns.

This license to continue in force
during the pleasure of the Governor for the
time being, or until Congress shall make
provision for regulating trade and intercourse
with the Indian tribes west of the Mississippi river.

Given under my hand and the
seal of the Superintendancy at the
City of New-Orleans the 7th day of
March 1804, and in the 28th year of
American Independence

By the Gov.r
Jno. Watkins
Secretary

Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne

New Orleans 1814

Sir

You will perceive by the enclosed statement that a certain Joseph Peny a Lieutenant complains of being imprisoned by Captain Gilbert without just cause. You will be pleased in your Judicial capacity to enquire into the circumstances of this case, and take such measures as Justice may demand.

I am respectfully

Yr Obedient Servant

Signed Wm C. C. Claiborne

Beverly Chew esqr

Justice of the Court of Common Pleas.

[illegible] In conformity to your [illegible] of the 9th
ultimo I have directed to [illegible] the
[illegible] to the Officer Commanding
above the City &c. for the purpose of carrying
the appointment of Commanders for the Sam
I have the honor to enclose to you the follow
ing Extract

[illegible] of St Charles
or the District of the German Coast
which lays about seven leagues above New
Orleans that the former Commandant of St
Charles had already executed his Commis
sion and instructions, shortly from your Excel
lency and was then engaged in the
ferent functions of his Office. He has no
dictation in taking the Oath of Allegiance to
the United States or that of his office, and
having communicated to him the substance of
your Excellency's instructions, and received
assurances on his part of the good disposi-
tion of the inhabitants of his district towards
the Government of the United States, I proceed
ed without delay to the Parish of St John the
Baptist or the District of the second German
coast. Here I presented to M. Manuel Andry

the

the former Commandant does to the abbreviating
him to the same office. He expresses his satisfac-
tion on this head of the confidence shown him
by those Countries, represents at the same
time the Commerce of the United States
and the obligations of this office
at that station, and that it should be his study to
promote the Interests and Industry of the Country
by a cheerful Co-operation in all the measures
which the wisdom of Rulers might think
proper to adopt. At the same time of this notice
begins the Season for the Visit of St
Thomas of which all Vessels are and has hereto-
fore been Consigned. He
has resided for 28 years to
the Inhabitants. He is
a Man of
Character, a man of
Integrity and the universal esteem
and Confidence of this District. He does not however
speak English, and requests me to offer
this as an apology for his not having answered
your letter of the 14th ultimo. This however he proposes
shortly to do, and begs you in the mean time
to be assured of his best exertions in the support
of the American Government and in the discharge
of the duties of his civil administration

He bears British in accordance the Vice Consul

[illegible] to the [illegible] in consequence of the [illegible] to [illegible] to be [illegible] to [illegible] the other [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

each side of the [illegible]
to the Indians and the [illegible] shown
50 leagues [illegible] the former be
[illegible] of this district. Villavera about
to [illegible], and coming from the last [illegible]
[illegible] an attachment to the American [illegible]
[illegible] to the welfare and happiness of the inhabitants
was agreeable [illegible] instructions re-[illegible]
is proper that I should [illegible] on the matter
to communicate to [illegible] a variety of information
occurring from the [illegible] highly important
to the political as well as the social and moral in-
terests of the government and inhabitants of the
country. Some few weeks ago during the absence
of Mr. Villaverde, three persons at the fork from
[illegible] a vessel [illegible] with 12 Negroes, said to
have been Negroes [illegible] island of St. Domingo.
These persons in [illegible] were frequently
in their and in their usual language made
use of [illegible] menacing and menacing expressions
to the inhabitants. Among other things they spoke
of eating human flesh and in general demon-
strated great savageness of character, boasting
of what they had seen and done in the horrors
of St. Domingo. It would appear that this vessel
was either Commanded by, or the slaves on board
under the immediate direction of one Mercier
a tame man who keeps a Billiard table at
[illegible]

Mr. Langdon [illegible] in this [illegible]
the vessel with the crews of the Spies on board
passed from the fort into the Mississippi & sunk
near the mouth of the river. Since which time no
accounts have been heard of them. Mr. Williams
Express'd a desire to remain at the Court of
Excellency all the information he could to
collect upon the subject but the press time
he will return me [illegible] early next
and express his [illegible] your Excellency
would take such measures relative thereto as the
circumstance of this case may require.

The District next to that of La Fourche and
extending up on one side of the Mississippi as
high as [illegible] on the other side to the
Bayou Noir [illegible] in the
Parish of [illegible] in the
place of this gentleman [illegible]
Nicholas Rousseau [illegible] a resident
of twenty years in the Country [illegible] the En-
glish and French languages and possesses
with the esteem of his neighbors the reputa-
tion of an honest intelligent man. In justice to
Mr Rivas I cannot help observing, that he express
in the strongest terms his regret at not being able
to continue in office and begged me to assure me that
the American Government might calculate upon
his cordial support, and as it was his intention
shortly to withdraw from the District of [illegible]

[illegible] them and, in the [illegible]
his power and resistance with his [illegible] of
services to the Government and do every thing
assist his successor when sought [illegible]

From Plaquemines to Fausse Terre a distance
about 12 leagues was formerly attached to the Govern
of Baton Rouge and is consequently on my
most formal district of the Eastern Coast. In this
place which I have called the district of Iberville
Baton Rouge I have also placed Mr. Hoffman
Mr. Hoff a gentleman well known to your Excellency
a native of the United States and remarkable for
his attachment to its Government. In this district
it may be necessary for your Excellency to take some
particular arrangements relative to the Archives and
public documents from the circumstance of their all
being placed in the hands of the Spanish Gover-
nors. Baton Rouge

Baton Rouge is situated about ten leagues
from Lake Pontchartrain upon the river Iberville
a little below its junction with the Amite. There
are but a few inhabitants in this place and
notwithstanding its beautiful and advantageous
situation there are but about 28 families in the
whole of that part of the district which remains
to the United States and not above 25 or 30 slaves.
There is here a small fort with a few pieces of
Iron Cannon and 12 French Soldiers which are
com-

Commanded by Don Thomas Esteven an officer in the
Service of his Catholic Majesty. This petition has
solicited his recall and severally laments that its
first favorable prayers have not been answered
according to American Citizen and Consequently
Entitled to the Consideration he has hitherto received
from this Government by which he has been
Station permitted to remain in this Country
Man to his Family and Connections He conceives
afections of his wife desire of the Second Consul
his last services, and his integrity and goodness
of Character will secure him favor favor and
patronage. Don Thomas Esteven Lives Compan
for the want of a better Capacity of Character to
appoint the United States Civil Commander
out of this district he is both a Citizen
has resided 20 years in the Country, of a mild
of good sense and inoffensive honesty, and
unfortunately a great drunkard — he speaks
the two languages and believes him devoted to
when he declares his attachment to the American
principles and government. If it may be necessary
duty to send a military Commandant to this post
your Excellency can take such measures as will
better Secure the government, being that
there is no person there at present in whom
much trust or confidence can be placed. You

inhabitants of the Coun[illegible] g[illegible]
the balance [illegible] reside [illegible] the town [illegible] chiefly [illegible]
poor and very miserable.

In the choice of Commandants I [illegible] those
have been re-appointed, as those [illegible] have been
actuated under I have paid strict attention to the instruc-
tions of your Excellency [illegible] endeavoring to unite integrity of
character and the public confidence to the principles
feelings of American citizens. In my conversations
them I endeavored to impress upon their minds the
and honorable ideas of the American Government,
the importance of their own situations, and the absolute
necessity of their administering strict, prompt and im-
partial justice. In my communications with the
people generally I have no difficulty in convincing
them that under the protection of the United States
their liberty, property and religion would be protected
and that their interests, manners might be insu-
lated to the contrary their political existence was
now permanently settled and that the province of
Louisiana would never again revert either to France
or Spain or be detached from the United States.
This information was in general received with plea-
sure and although there are some few characters
who from habit or motives of particular interest
or prejudice would prefer the Spanish and others
the French Government yet I am fully persuaded
that a large majority of the most respectable people

of the country are better satisfied with their pres
situations and sincerely rejoice at their adoption
into the Government of the United States. They
are prepared for a change and treat with im
patience for the introduction and operation of a
more wholesome and vigorous system. Less than
one year for an apprenticeship accustomed
during the love and regular Government of Spa
public spirit or to sacrifices the interests of
the state, to personal aggrandize
ment the laws were trodden under foot. Crimes
left unpunished or punished too severely, all was
disorder and confusion. It will therefore be
necessary for you to instruct the different Com
mandants to render assistance to an obedi
ence of the laws of humanity to the public and pro
tecting and encouraging the innocent and pious
worthy. The Roads and Bridges are in many
and the Levee in many places out of repair.
Properties of land are with difficulty brou
to labors of this kind. The regulations of the
country relative to these subjects have been so
long in force that they require to be renewed
to be obtained or obeyed. The negroes are
in a debased state of idleness and want
of instruction. They are suffered to wan
der about at night with [illegible] stealing

drinking and resting [illegible]
judice of their owners and all the [illegible]
society. Persons are ever where often[illegible] without [illegible]
licenses and ardent spirits unscrupulously [illegible]
to carry on [illegible] of persons to the injury of the
public revenue and the great moral agencies of
and immorality. Some regulations to control this subj
originating with your Excellency and passing with
your sanction through the different Departments
to the people would [illegible] and have a good
effect. The natives of this country are naturally docile
and easily governed and from habit are disposed to
respect and obey their [illegible]. It is proper that I should
here mention to you a species of prevarication among
the farmers that [illegible] them, and becoming a serious evil to the public at large. There are
2 members of persons [illegible] in towns, in French, who
[illegible] in trade of Jaffia, Sugar and Coffee
at Cheefs of the sale of these articles and in a
Canoe or [illegible] small craft they ascend the
rivers as far as the upper settlements for the purpose
of trading with the negroes for stolen goods. They
lie by in the course of the day and as soon as
night comes on they go into the different huts
or Cabbins or receive the negroes on board their
Craft and purchase of them for Jaffia, all the
clothes, plate, pots or other things which they
may have stolen from their Masters or other peo-

son. having sold off their cargo these vessels return to town with their stolen goods which are converted into money for the purchase of negroes. Considering this nefarious traffic the Brazilian government by some steps measures of prohibition but as these miserable fellows get more money at this time the evil has returned with renovated force and the inhabitants of the river Para by the Rio Negro and those of the Province of Maranham by great exertions of their governors to put a stop to this infamous traffic. The subject deserves to be so interesting to the minds of the inhabitants of that part of the country which I have not as that of the importation of negroes from Africa. This permission would produce great discontent among the people and would be considered by them as a violation of the Constitution of the United States than any other measure that could be adopted to the Country. They often only claim it for a few years and without it they pretend that they must abandon the culture both of Sugar and Cotton. White labourers they say cannot be had in this unhealthy climate and they would not enjoy the blessings of a rich soil and a valuable constitution even under the happy Government of America. Natives of Africa necessary

assurance in their labors.

they are naturally earned to speak the fee
their local and temporary grievances. They wish
allowed a member whom the floor of Congress to
lect their true interests and situations. Some
they desire to enter immediately into all the ben
and advantages of a State government but
generally stop short at the difficulties of
her representation in their present state of
tical knowledge. The increase of public burdi
bout-tides poisons &c. the increase of taxes,
the acrimony of elections, courts of justice,
juries, pleadings, law and lawyers, with
the difficulties of language has made most
of the desirable reflecting people fall into the
opinion that a Government of Commandan
at any rate for the county, is best adapted
to their present situation. These Command-
ants must be just and enlightened men
who by degrees will introduce the American
laws and usages and gradually bring the
people acquainted with representation and
the true principles and advantages of the
Federal Constitution. In the mean time schools
of learning will be established, the English
language encouraged and the population of
the country keeping pace with its advancement
in political science, the inhabitants will in a few

few years be prepared to become an active &
ecan citizens and to take a participation in the
dvantages of their most excellent form of
overnment.

We the Commissioners beg leave to call
fifteenth and sixteenth almost impossibility of
ing persons elected Constables the qualifications
ed according to law, and who can read
their Oaths and likewise to understand the
nature and the incumbent duty of each office.
ents to be under four bondsmen
is not possible to elect them as Trustees as
they will be to perform this duty who shall be
paid a regular salary, whether given in tax
lected upon each inhabitant or from the public
Treasury. We also believe that a hundred dollars
a year for each of these men would be a
sufficient gratification and that it would
result in many advantages and the general
satisfaction of the people. We also call
of the want of prisons or some place of con-
finement for Criminals and other defaulters.
They speak loudly of the great expense attend
ant upon their trials as Civil Magistrates
and the inconsiderable recompense received for
the fees to which they are entitled by law. We
complain to you the increasing and falling down of
their Charter, and unlikely to be altered by
many of their Laws, which are [illegible]

a deficiency in their
love to [illegible] with the Spanish Government they
regret this circumstance as it is taken away from
the minds of the growing generation the habit
attached to immorality, and by having a dou-
ble necessity and influence the ministry of
people among the Spaniards will work in vain
the fundamentals of their religion and open
door to all belief in the truth of virtue
the advantages of good morals. You will have
Excellency also another thing to power in the re-
placing their charge by encouraging the people to con-
tribute to their maintenance and support. They
pray you also to grant particular support in the
exercise of the duties of their office that you
will instruct them when errors, encourage when
well and assist them in contributing their mite for
the instruction of the rudiments of the people, the
prosperity of the country and the preservation of
that constitution which they have sworn to sup-
port and shall on future delight to obey.

I entreated to have said something upon the
subjects of, the number of inhabitants, the
strength of the militia, the productions of the
soil, its qualities and the quantities of the
different articles raised thereon, the import-
ance of clearing up the Bayou's of Iberville,
the fork and Plaquemines and the advantages
that

that would result therefrom of the propriety of soliciting Congress for vacant Lands for the purpose of forming a Compact for the establishment of a Seminary of Learning and other Schools but having already given out this communication to a Committee of the Legislature Excelling to accept of a Grant of, and desired that it be with Conditions of the largest Quantity that could be obtained.

I am Your Excellency's Most Obedient Servant

Stephen F. Austin

Signed

His Excellency

William C. C. Claiborne

Governor General and Intendant

of the Province of Louisiana.

New-Orleans,

February 2d 1804

New-Orleans [illegible]

[illegible] Sir [illegible] were sent [illegible]
Minister or Representative [illegible] forms be
[illegible] that citizens [illegible] the United
States [illegible] the Executive Departments [illegible]
Central and Executive Authorities [illegible] assistance
to obtain [illegible] Depositions [illegible] by some
verbal communications [illegible] Papers [illegible] unless the
nature of the Citizens [illegible] the change
of Government [illegible] require [illegible] Characters
known to Consuls [illegible] enable [illegible] to take
the most [illegible] necessary [illegible] in
this City, [illegible] acquainted with Characters
known to [illegible] John Watkins to proceed
[illegible] to [illegible] Districts, and which he
[illegible]

John Watkins was formerly of Kentucky but having married a Lady of this Province, has settled in this City; he is perfect master of the French and Spanish Languages, possesses good general information, and supports the Character of a very honest man.

The inclosure No 1, is a copy of Doctor Watkins's Instructions; that No 2, of his Credentials, and the inclosure No 3, of the Doctors Report, to

[illegible]

this latter document, I beg leave particularly to
call your attention to the rights of the territorial
subjects now residing in Louisiana, which
will no doubt receive the attention of the
Government.

With respect to the eligibility of aliens
to offices, which I mentioned in my last, I
think it unnecessary to state particularly the reasons
the people generally entertain for a policy
which the Legislature of Louisiana pursued
under a conviction that it was necessary to the
union of the Country. I have also stated the
decision of the people on the subject of
Congress settling Public Lands. Whatever
grants may have been made by the late Spanish Authorities
perhaps in the latter days of the Government for
Louisiana, Congress will be the decision of a
delegate, and expect the benefits and
those enjoyed by delegates from other territories.
Such a provision would certainly give general
satisfaction here, and other Congresses may deem
it advisable.

Accept assurances of my
respectful consideration

Signed — Wm. C. C. Claiborne.

The Honble
James Madison
Secretary of State.

[illegible] Five Points [illegible]

[illegible] Southern Mail arrived last evening
bearing official letters from the Seat
of Government.

[illegible] Empowering Courts to transact business
during the recess of the Legislature
are of great importance; and are
becoming more so

I am Confident to exercise more authority
than I had contemplated, — My Decrees,
or rather Ordinances will present a more appear-
ance of the Seat of Government, and I can as-
sure you, nature and the Forces of legislation
with Reluctance, but in some cases, where the
interests of the [illegible] Members, and the wishes
of the People require me to act.

[illegible] Record in this City, the solici-
tude of the Inhabitants for some Tribunals of
Justice appeared to be universal, and the general
Complaint was, that no debts could be reco-
vered — I immediately organized an Inferior
Tribunal, and all parties seemed pleased with
the institution. Debtors however have recently
Complained of the zeal and promptitude with which
the Justices discharge their duties, and by that some
delay in the hearing and determining causes may be

prescribed. — I have endeavored to accomodate th
on this point in reserving certain Public proper
ing for the Court which will proceed at Nov
Nebo's Nation.

from the great variety of Letters be
in effect Colonel Burr now stands convicte
ten regular free Citizens and from numerous
other respectable sources I am induced to
that a fair trial cannot now be had in the
of leaving the City for the Court and the Witn
will disposed Citizens.

I am, Sir
Your most obt. Sert
C. Lee Virginia

The Hon.ble
James Madison
Secretary of State.

An Ordinance

[illegible] the Mayor of the [illegible] exercising the powers granted and [illegible] by the [illegible] charter to [illegible] a committee hereafter [illegible] in the name of the people of [illegible] to make [illegible] for the security [illegible] by night, against fire, and the dangers of bad weather, hereon, and believing that while in this respect, it deserves upon the Police [illegible] to prescribe, it is the duty [illegible] inhabitants, faithfully to co-operate [illegible] members having for [illegible] welfare; Do therefore, [illegible] the following regulations [illegible] upon a street observance [illegible]

1st. A watch shall be organized to consist of the free white male inhabitants of the City, between seventeen and fifty years of age who have resided here more than thirty days; excepting always persons in authority, regular practising physicians and apothecaries, clergymen, schoolmasters, officers and soldiers of the regular corps, sea-faring people, and such

office present as the Commissaries of the Quarters
for each ward from persons selected to be enrolled
to the Captains.

2nd The Captains of the Quarters shall make
out the rolls of their respective Quarters
and hand the same to the Commissaries
into a convenient number of sections for each
ward district, persons to the number of about
one hundred to act as Guard, in each section, to which
the individuals composing each section, shall be duly
set and certain duties they shall follow.

3rd Watch consisting of not less than
twenty men, persons, shall patrole the streets during
night, to arrest disorderly and to apprehend all
who may be found transgressing the regula-
tions of the police. The Commissaries of the
Quarters will regulate among themselves the
proportion which each district, with respect,
and there shall be at least ten chiefs of sections
on duty every night, to whose authority the
individuals composing the watch shall be
subject. The Commissaries of the Quarters and
the Chiefs of sections will adopt methods to
secure a regular rotation of duty.

4th Persons neglecting or refusing to serve
on the watch, having been regularly warned
by a chief of section, at least six hours pre-

[illegible] to the time of [illegible]

not exceeding ten dollars for each offence, to be recovered before a magistrate, unless the delinquent shall produce substantial excuse for such neglect or refusal; and the said Intendant and Wardens, at the discretion of the Magistrate aforesaid, shall be and are hereby authorized from time to time to appoint

5th The Watch shall assemble every evening at eight O'clock at which time a sufficient number of their Sections or Companies of the Watch will receive their Instructions from the Officer commanding the Main Guard: They shall begin to patrole at nine O'clock precisely if united, as may be thought best; and during their tour, shall arrest all disorderly persons, to be dealt with according to the duties of the office, all Slaves who shall be found on the streets after nine O'clock without passes from their Masters, and all persons that may be found abroad at unreasonable hours, who do not give a good account of themselves; to enter Gambling houses, Tipling houses, and houses of ill fame, where people may be assembled at night, to compel such people if they thought necessary, to disperse and go home, to apprehend Sailors and Soldiers, who may be found absent from their Ships or Quarters at

Nine O'clock; and be general to repress
and maintain the quiet and security
6th
of the City. The Mayor each Alderman at Nine
O'clock every morning in the Guard House, to hear
examination of the Person or Persons that shall be
committed to prison the preceding night.
The Chief or Second Constable of the City
are attend the Mayor to discover such practices
and use such Examination as may be necessary. That
who may have been Arrested violating the
Ordinations of the Police are to be punished as such
Regulations may direct. After Persons may resist
whom no other charge arises than being drunk
Disorderly or Incapable thereof, are to be discharged
and that the Constables attending the Court
Watching Crimes or Breaches of the Peace, are to
be provided against Accidents by Law. The
Justices will make such Allowances as they
deem to do this duty in Rotation.

7th Should the Watch or any individual
thereof be guilty of an outrage upon the Per-
sons or Property of the poor inhabitants of the
City, or insult them, or without just Cause,
and contrary to the true intent and mean
ing of this Ordinance, wantonly or mali
ciously apprehend and imprison any Person,
each and every of them so offending, shall be

be liable to punishment by fine
dollars, &c. matter to be inquired into, heard and
summarily determined on the succeeding morn
for the attendance of the keeper thereof
and commanded to be at liberty in cases of sp
where the fine exceeds to the ordinary
jurisdiction
of the Mayors or Recorder of this district
shall be paid into the treasury of the city, and
appropriated for the use thereof, under the direction
of the Municipality.

Given under my hand and the seal
of the Administration, at the city
of New Orleans, the third day
of March A.C. 1804, and in the 28th year
of American Independence.

Wm C.C. Claiborne

New Orleans March 7th 1810

The President of the United States wish a
view to secure a good understanding with the
Choctaw Indians, has established a Factory on
the River Pearl at Fort Stephens, and has Instruct
the Factor to purchase Horses and Cattle
and the Skins &c which they may procure from
the Country of the Choctaw Nation, and
myself that on their passage by the way of
Mobile, no duties will be exacted, or interruption
offered by the Authorities of Spain.

I beg leave to remind your Excellency
that by a treaty between the United States and
his Catholic Majesty, they are mutually bound
to restrain the Indians, on their respective
limits from committing hostilities against the
adjacent Settlements of either Power: the
property therefore of the Factor at Fort Stephens
is interesting to both our Nations, since the
influence which the American government may
acquire in the Choctaw Councils, will be used
not only to secure Peace and Safety to our
own frontiers, but to the dominions of his
Catholic Majesty.

I accept assurances of my great
respect, and high Consideration

His Excellency
Governor Folch /Signed/ Wm C. C. Claiborne

Dear Sir

I am in receiving the assurances of Regard
and Respect, and I persuade myself, your conduct
that of [illegible] such, as to recommend you
to the [illegible] Government.
I shall [illegible] to, by
your particular attention [illegible] I doubt not but
ensure the [illegible] under your [illegible]
Regiment [illegible] that the Delay
immediately [illegible] on this occasion in the way
of the Mobille, or this City as you may esteem
most expedient. — On the Subject of the duties you
alluded to, I have addressed a letter to Governor
Folch [illegible] to which [illegible] his answer,
I expect every [illegible] duties upon that
[illegible] — [illegible] answer is received which I
[illegible] you shall be advised thereof. —
Silver at this time Commands a high price to the
Northward, and I therefore advise a Shipment,
immediately upon your being informed by me,
of the determination of the Spanish Authorities
with respect to the duties.

The Archives of Louisiana have not all
been surrendered to the American Commissioners,
but a compleat delivery is expected in a few days,
the records you desire, are not in our possession,
when they are delivered, measures will be taken.

to procure. Others [illegible] understand
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] branch [illegible] for this Port

[illegible] which [illegible] morning,

[illegible] that [illegible] were [illegible] in

[illegible] [illegible] and

[illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

the French [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in a few

days [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to

conclude the business of the session.

The health [illegible] is still preserved,

and there is [illegible] [illegible] unceasing tranquility

the [illegible] [illegible] manifest great impa-

tience [illegible] [illegible] of the Revenue System for

[illegible] [illegible] as fast as the planters complain

heavily [illegible] duties on exports. — and the want

of Registers for vessels now in this port Claimed

by Citizens of Louisiana is spoken of as a serious

injury to the mercantile interest.

I have omitted no occasion to impress upon

the Citizens the absolute necessity there was,

in well conducting the laws for the government

of Louisiana and to assure them, that a

regard for their welfare, and the great-

[illegible] approach as near perfection as possible, and at occasions the acts ~~in these instances~~ both repealing ones, no blame attaches to the Governor. There interest & Connection with a Bank is natural to suppose to be important & its Company & first Manager that the Secretary of State should be a citizen & connected to the persons interested in Government, it is true, but I do not suppose it to manifest an undue to manifest an undue partiality to the Bank. I accepted the appointment to mend the general peace, and to make such legislative provisions as their local interests may require; hence the laws of late passed, & all local Ordinances, Copies of which shall be transmitted to you.

The citizens of New Orleans have ~~transmitted~~ expressed unanimously desirous for a Bank and a petition to me, on the subject was presented, signed by 3 thousand citizens respectable man in the city and its vicinity. I am inclined to indulge the people on this occasion the Bank would be so pleasing, and so much engross the public attention, that if Congress should permit the Province to remain in its present situation for months, it seems to me, the citizens would be disposed to not complain. I at first had some doubts as to my power to grant a Charter; but I find that under the former Government, the Governor had authority

ty to pass all
Provisions & Drink might be
commercial and Agricultural interest, and to
the improvement of the Province. I am
[illegible] Sanctioning
Assurance that I [illegible]
applications of the People, and [illegible]
stances [illegible] to me that my duty requires
thing on my part should be done to con-
ral confidence. In the exercise of my discretionary
powers, I trust that candor to bear that through
want of Judgment I shall commit many error
but believe me Sir I shall do nothing but with
honest intentions, and a sincere desire to promot
the interest of my country

I accept assurances of
Respect and esteem
Signed — Wm. C.C. Claiborne

The Honble
James Madison
Secretary of State

Sir

I have been informed by the British Consul at this Port, that he receives from no longer usefull authority to expend the ... appropriation by Government for the support ... sick Seamen and Boatmen ... may fall sick or become destitute ... resource. It therefore seems ... therefore Sir it is, that I have ... that this humane duty may be committed to ... Mr Clarke or some other person. You cannot any where meet a greater necessity for a provision of the kind alluded to than in this Port. During the seasons of the year ... of the inhabitants is very unhealthy, and the climate proves particularly fatal to strangers. The New-Orleans is already a great commercial City, and thousands of Seamen and Boatmen from the United States visit it annually. When they fall sick or become disabled, they frequently experience an accumulation of distress, and many have heretofore died for want of the common comforts of a sick bed. There is in this City one Charity Hospital supported entirely by private bounty but its funds are too limited to render the institution extensively useful. Until

thus

Therefore the [illegible]

[illegible] Congress [illegible]

[illegible] protection [illegible]

[illegible] Navigation [illegible]

[illegible] Fortress [illegible]

[illegible]

Adequate [illegible]

afforded them by the General Government [illegible]

pray that the [illegible] to [illegible] be

continued

Accept assurances of my

Great respect and

high consideration

Yours &c Claiborne

To the

Hon James Madison

Secretary of State.

New Orleans 9 March 1844

In a late article was copied by the last mail from the seat of government a letter stated that a law had passed the Legislature prohibiting the foreign importation of slaves into the State. The intelligence was received by great satisfaction here and in the adjacent settlements.

The Opelousas Gazette however seems to consider the farmers as desirous of increasing the number of their slaves. The prohibitory the importation of negroes therefore, is viewed here as a serious blow at the commercial and agricultural interests of the State.

The agitation of affairs with the State of South Carolina has served to increase the discontent here. The citizens generally cannot be made to understand the present power of the State authorities with regard to the importation of persons — they suppose that Congress must connive at the importation into South Carolina, and many will be made to believe that it is done with a view to make South Carolina the sole importer for Louisiana.

An Adventurer of the name of Tupper, a native of Boston, and if report be true of little

[illegible] three weeks ago, taking [illegible]
[illegible] proposed a meeting [illegible]
in order to state their grievances [illegible]
[illegible] the heads of these
[illegible] Jupiter (it is said) is [illegible]
[illegible] therefore to counter the measures to [illegible]
[illegible] with an opinion, that this party
the proceedings [illegible] and I believe but few
if any respectable citizens will attend the meeting. In
the present unsettled state of things public assemblages
of the people might lead to riot and disorder. The
public mind here may easily be inflamed, and
when the combustibles are put in motion it would
be difficult to extinguish them for some time. The suc-
cess which this [illegible] has met with, is a
strong proof of the [illegible] a designing unprinci-
pled man may do in Louisiana. The prohibition
of the African trade, the continuation of the export
duties, the want of Registers for vessels, and the
delay in extending to the Louisianians like pri-
veleges with those enjoyed by Citizens of the United
States, — have been the themes of discussion with
these adventurers. I hope however his designs
will be counteracted, and that the quiet of the
city will remain uninterrupted. I must confess
Sir, I apprehend more trouble from some imprudent

Ame-

natives.

My former Congressional acquaintance with Livingston & more particularly Secretary Madison and the regard consequent influence which the latter manifests the best dispositions towards the Government, and a desire to render a disinterested pleasing, and the present state of things acceptable to the people

[illegible] assurances of my great respect and esteem

Signed — Wm C. C. Claiborne

The Hon.ble
James Madison
Secretary of State

To his Excellency Wm C. C. Claiborne
Governor of the Mississippi Territory
exercising the powers of Governor-
General and Intendant of the —
Province of Louisiana

The exertions of a Public Officer to confer happiness on the Community by dispensing equal and impartial justice, and preserving unimpaired the Constitutional liberties of the people deserve the return of grateful acknowledgments.

The Citizens of Washington and its vicinity therefore pray your Excellency to accept their indi-

[illegible] a Throbation of the [illegible]
your [illegible] Administration in the
[illegible] of Intrepid Conduct united to an
[illegible] pathetic prevalence and unbounded
[illegible] of Eulogium, all that those Centers
[illegible] of free you as a just tribute.

[illegible] congratulate your Excellency
[illegible] and Harmony with which the Government
is [illegible] by our fellow Citizens of
Louisiana, this great and interesting [illegible] cannot
fail to exhibit the fairest page in the Volume of
faithful history and the high character who so
ably managed the negotiation from its commence-
ment to the ever memorable surrender on the
twentieth day of December [illegible] will share the
warmest affections of the American people.

On this auspicious occasion we reflect
with honest pride and exultation, that in dis-
charging the high trust and confidence reposed
in your Excellency by the President of the United
States, nothing has appeared repugnant to the
principles of inflexible justice mingled with
humanity.

We earnestly desire the return of your Excel-
lency to the Mississippi Territory: we anticipate
no change by which we can gain either a better
friend

[illegible] but the
General Government requires your attendance
Quarter, & tenders you this public proof of
friendship, and a sincere wish that you may
continue to merit and retain the confidence
Country.

Given under my hand at Philadelphia this 30th
day of September 1789.

Go. Washington

To the Citizens of the Town of Hartford
and its vicinity.

Gentlemen,

Your friendly address of the 27th
ultimo has excited in my breast sensations of gra-
titude and pleasure. The highest reward for
public services is a consciousness of having
acted with honest intentions, the next is an
approbation of the public suffrage in their favor. Of the
former no circumstance can deprive me, and of
the latter your address is a most pleasing tes-
timonial. A testimonial the more grateful,
because it comes from friends whose good opi-
nion I highly value, from neighbors to whom
every part of my conduct has been exposed, and
from citizens who know their rights and would
disdain to flatter the man who had betrayed them.

Your congratulations
upon the [illegible] given to
[illegible] and [illegible]selves [illegible]
[illegible] reciprocate with
[illegible] to the least, [illegible] promoted
[illegible] that [illegible] the most fortunate
[illegible] of [illegible] are objects dear to me
the discharge of the high trust which the
of the United States has temporarily
me, I shall [illegible] greatest care to keep in view
the principles of [illegible] with
humanity.

Accept, Sir, [illegible] sincere thanks for
your kind wishes with [illegible] my future destina-
tion; [illegible] whether it may call me, nor
do I forbear that a change in the Executive of your
Nation is [illegible], but permit me to say,
that in whatever situation I may be placed,
I shall retain a grateful sense of your favors,
the best dispositions to serve you, and an anx-
ious solicitude for your prosperity.

Signed — Wm. C. C. Claiborne

New-Orleans, March 8th 1804.

An Ordinance

By William C. C. Claiborne Governor of the Mississippi Territory, acting under the authority of Governor-General of the Province of Louisiana

Whereas, a number of Merchants and Planters have associated for the purpose of establishing a Bank of Discount & Deposit, at the Exchange in the City of New-Orleans, and have applied to me to enact the same into a Law, to the end that the stock-holders in the said Bank may not individually be liable for the contracts made by the said Bank, and that the said Company may sue and be sued in such Courts of Law for all debts which may be due to or contracted by them.

And Whereas, it appears to me that the said institution will tend greatly to the safety and ease of transacting of mercantile business, will extend the commerce, improve the agriculture and promote the prosperity of this province.

Therefore, be it enacted, that a Bank may be established in the City of New-Orleans the Capital Stock whereof shall not at present exceed Six hundred thousand dollars divided into

six thousand [illegible] of [illegible]
[illegible] fifth [illegible] the Merge of
[illegible] votes thereat at the [illegible]
[illegible] at the following four persons
[illegible] Directors to be chosen
[illegible] as aforesaid shall continue
[illegible] shall be opened for the space of
sixteen days of March instant under the
[illegible] of Governors, John F. Mercer, Samuel
Harrison, William Eustis, Edward Livingston, Peter
Enos, Josiah Fox, John Tarbox, William
Donaldson, Nicholas Ryckman, John [illegible] Donnaugh
[illegible] Jerome Bonaparte, Benjamin Morgan,
Moses Brown, [illegible] Nathaniel Forster, and Be-
verly Chew, which said Subscription shall contin-
ue open until the whole of the said Capital Stock
shall be subscribed.

And be it further Ordained that all those
who shall become Subscribers to the said Bank
their Successors and assigns shall be and they are
hereby created a body corporate and politic by the
name and style of the Louisiana Bank, and by
that name shall be made capable at all times here-
after to purchase, receive, possess and enjoy all kinds
of estate whatsoever whether real or personal to an
amount not exceeding five hundred thousand dol-
lars over and above their capital stock, and the

1805
1806.

same

and decrease of Cap-
ital and the same shall and be completed on
of Record and therein ... Certificates
Common Seal and the same to be under and
their pleasure.

And be it further Ordained ... that the
the affairs of the said Corporation shall be left
Directors to be chosen at the time and place
Monday of January ... who ... after ...
office on the Monday then next following and that for
the period succeed to the said Election on Monday
in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty five Direc-
tors for the said Bank ... in manner the manner
following that is to say as soon as the Stock of Three
hundred thousand dollars ... subscribed the
Commissioners ... at the time ... for proceeding
to the election of fifteen Directors ... public notice
notice thereof in ... at least one of the ...
newspapers printed in the said City and it shall
be lawful for such election to be then and there
held by the subscribing Stockholders or their proxies
by ballot under the direction of the said Commission-
ers or a majority of them and the persons then
and there chosen shall be the first Directors and
shall be capable of serving by virtue of such choice
until the second Monday in January next and
that the said Directors shall at their first meet-
ing elect by ballot one of their number to be

Presi-

President and a [illegible]
to elect from the
[illegible] election of their [illegible]
who shall continue in office for one year and
until [illegible] the office of Director
removed from the jurisdiction of the City of
Baltimore before the first Monday of January
year for which he may be elected or by the Directors
the said Directors for the time being shall
or to appoint all officers and servants under them
and also them and each to the President of the said
Bank such compensation for their services as they
may deem reasonable and shall make rules and
regulations for the direction of business and the good
government of the affairs of the said Corporation. And
shall three or more days notice and pay a dividend
of the profits of said Corporation thereof arising on the
said stock as they may deem reasonable.

And be it further Ordained, that the number
of votes to which each stock holder shall be
entitled shall be according to the number of shares
he shall hold in the proportion following that is
to say,— for one share and not more than four, one
vote, for five shares and not more than nine, two
votes, for ten shares and not more than fourteen,
four votes, for fifteen shares and not more than nine-
teen, six votes, for twenty shares and not more than
twenty four, eight votes, for twenty five and not more
than twenty nine, ten votes, for thirty and not more
than

[illegal] forty five dollars, for forty and [illegal] than forty four votes, for forty three dollars, [illegal] than forty-nine dollars, forty two votes, for [illegal] than fifty four, twenty votes, fifty [illegal] than fifty-one, twenty two votes, [illegal] than sixty four, twenty votes, for [illegal] than sixty nine, twenty two votes, for seventy [illegal] than seventy four, twenty eight votes, for seventy [illegal] upwards, thirty votes, and after the first election [illegal] share or shares shall confer a right of suffrage which shall not have been held three calendar months previous to the day of election, and that on all elections votes may be given either in person or by proxy according to such form as the Directors shall establish.

And be it further Ordained, that if there should be a failure in the payment of any part of any sum subscribed for any share or shares by any person co-partnership or body politic the party failing shall lose and forfeit all profits, dividends or them made on such share or shares to the use of the said Bank.

And be it further Ordained, that for the transaction of all business of the said Corporation requiring an act of the Direction except the making of discounts seven Directors together with the President or in case of his sickness or absence some one Director appointed by him shall be a quorum, and that for the making of discounts, four Directors and the President or some one ac-

[illegible] shall
[illegible] that it further
[illegible] happen that an [illegible] of
not [illegible] any way when [illegible]
[illegible] to have been made, the [illegible]
[illegible] shall [illegible] for that purpose [illegible]
[illegible] but it shall be lawful for any [illegible]
to hold [illegible] meeting or election of Directors
manner as shall have been regulated by the [illegible]
and Ordinances of the said Corporation

And be it further Ordained, that the Stock
of the said Corporation shall be transferable according to such regulations as shall be established by the Directors and that the [illegible] Notes [illegible] may be issued by the said Corporation signed by the President and countersigned by the Cashier promising the payment of money to any person [illegible] or to bearer shall be binding and obligatory upon the Corporation though not under Seal and shall be assignable and negotiable that is to say those which are payable to order shall be assignable and negotiable by endorsement, and those which are payable to bearer shall be negotiable and assignable by delivery only.

And be it further Ordained, that whenever the Directors shall deem it expedient they may increase the Capital Stock of the said Corporation to two millions of dollars and may subscribe or cause the same or any part thereof to be subscribed in such manner and on such terms as to them may

subscribers shall constitute part of the capital stock of the said Corporation and shall be transferable in like manner and liable to the regulations which are prescribed for the transfer of the said Capital Stock.

And be it further enacted that the said Corporation shall not be entitled or interested in any Banking or trade in any thing except Promissory Notes, Bonds, Mortgages, Bills of Exchange, Gold or Silver Bullion or in the sale of pledged goods, Stock in the Public funds, or effects belonging for money lent, or on the produce of such loans.

And be it further enacted that this Ordinance shall continue in force for a period not exceeding fifteen years from the date hereof, unless the same shall be renewed by the proper Constituted Authorities.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Administration at the City of New-Orleans, the twelfth day of March 1804, and in the 28th year of American Independence.

L.S.

Signed — Wm. C. C. Claiborne.

By the Governor

E. Briggs Sec.y pro-tem.

[illegible] William C. C. Claiborne [illegible]
[illegible] obligation do solemnly swear or
[illegible] Governor General and Superintendant
[illegible] Province of Louisiana.

[illegible] Whereas it is necessary that
the State of Proceedings in Law, should
be attended with Celerity, it is
by Rules of Practice for the Courts of
Justice, Established that no
person shall be permitted to practise as Attorney
or Counsellor at Law in any Court now established
in this City, until such person shall have been duly
licensed to that effect by the Governor under his
hand and Seal of the Administration, and shall
in Open Court take the following Oath — I A. B.
do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully
and honestly demean myself as an Attorney
and Counsellor at Law, to the best of my Skill
and judgment — So help me God. — Provided
nevertheless, that nothing herein contained shall
be construed to prevent Suitors from managing and
pleading their own causes in person.

L. S.

Given under my hand, and the Seal of
the Administration at the City of New Orleans
the thirteenth day of March 1804, and in the
28th year of American Independence

By the Governor
Signed Wm. C. C. Claiborne
C. Briggs. Secretary

An Ordinance

To Regulate the Pilotage of the Mississippi River, and to repeal all Ordinances heretofore passed on that subject.

Section 1st Be it ordained by the Mayor, Aldermen and Inhabitants of the City of New Orleans, in Council convened, That from and after the passage of this Ordinance, no person shall act as a pilot for the port of New Orleans, nor be authorized to pilot vessels in and out of the Mississippi River, unless he shall have obtained a license to that effect from the Mayor.

Section 2nd Be it further ordained, That the Mayor shall grant licenses to such persons as shall have served an apprenticeship of not less than three years, and have been duly examined and approved by the Board of Examiners hereinafter mentioned, and who shall have taken the oath of office hereinafter prescribed.

Section 3rd Be it further ordained, That no person shall be eligible to the office of Pilot, unless he shall be a citizen of the United States, or shall have declared his intention to become a citizen, and shall have resided in the State of Louisiana one year next preceding his application for a license.

Section 4th Be it further ordained, That no person shall be eligible to the office of Pilot, unless he shall be of the age of twenty-one years, and shall produce to the Board of Examiners satisfactory testimonials of his good character, sobriety and capacity.

Section 5th Be it further ordained, That the Board of Examiners shall consist of three persons, to be appointed annually by the Mayor, and shall be sworn faithfully to discharge the duties of their office.

Section 6th Be it further ordained, That the Board of Examiners shall meet at the Office of the Harbor Master, on the first Monday in every month, and oftener if necessary, and shall examine all persons who may apply for licenses to act as Pilots, and shall report to the Mayor the names of those whom they shall approve, and the Mayor shall grant licenses to such persons, and no others.

Section 7th Be it further ordained, That the Board of Examiners shall receive for their services the sum of Ten Dollars for each person examined by them, which shall be paid by the person applying for a license.

Section 8th Be it further ordained, That the Mayor shall grant licenses to Pilots for the Mississippi River, and for the Bayou St. John, and for the Lakes Pontchartrain and Borgne, and for the Bayou Lafourche, and for the Bayou Plaquemine, and for the Atchafalaya River, and for the Bayou Teche, and for the Bayou Manchac, and for the Bayou Sara, and for the Red River, and for the Ouachita River, and for the Bayou Boeuf, and for the Bayou Rapides, and for the Bayou Black, and for the Bayou Tensas, and for the Bayou Macon, and for the Bayou Vidal, and for the Bayou Courtableau, and for the Bayou Fordoche, and for the Bayou Des Allemands, and for the Bayou Terre aux Boeufs, and for the Bayou Des Familles, and for the Bayou Des Cannes, and for the Bayou Des Glaises, and for the Bayou Des Ecores, and for the Bayou Des Ecores, and for the Bayou Des Ecores

take out or discharge
[illegible] unless the [illegible]
[illegible] time or place the [illegible]
[illegible] be required or necessary.

4th That he shall receive two dollars per [illegible]
[illegible] the vessel by [illegible] pilotage
[illegible] over the dollars and fifty
[illegible]

5th That he shall be obliging to receive a [illegible]
half of [illegible] pilotage with [illegible]
[illegible] be entitled to the pilot who shall first offer
his services.

6th If a vessel after taking on board a pilot shall
be detained by the master, Consignee or officer com-
manding the same, the pilot shall receive at the
rate of [illegible] each and every day of such
detention

7th That if a pilot shall be carried to sea, con-
trary to his wishes from whatever cause the same
may happen, he shall receive like wages accomo-
dations, and provisions, with the Chief mate of
the vessel; his wages to continue till his return to
the Balize; and the pilot shall be further allow-
ed such incidental expenses as may be necessary
to his return; and the master of the vessel, owner,
and Consignee thereof or either of them shall be
held responsible for the claims of the pilot.

p. 3

guilty of misconduct or neglect of duty shall be fined in a sum not exceeding two hundred dollars.

And be it further enacted that all fines and forfeitures incurred under this ordinance shall be sued for and collected by the City Attorney before the Recorder's Court of the First District, or before any Court of competent jurisdiction, and shall be paid over to the Conservators of the Peace on and for this City, who is hereby declared to have cognizance thereof.

Given under my hand, and the Seal of the Administration at the City of New Orleans the fifteenth day of [illegible] in the 28th year of American Independence.

L.S.

Signed [illegible] C.C. Claiborne.

By the Governor

W. Briggs Secy. pro tem.

[illegible] I acknowledge the receipt of
[illegible] have the honor to inform you
that my Special Agent with the view of rendering
[illegible] to the Spanish Territories
[illegible] Spain & France be
[illegible] the highest consideration respt
[illegible] Your Obt. Servt
Signed [illegible] Wm. C. C. Claiborne

M. Talleyrand,
Minister of Foreign Relations

New Orleans March 15th 1804

Sir

I am at this moment engaged in preparing
Regulations for the Object of Taxes, and various
other objects of Policy, which will be transmitted to
you in the course of a few days

I have the honor to be,
with due respect and Consideration
Your Obt. Hble Servt.

(Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne

M. Decatour
Commandant of the Coast below the River

New Orleans 15th March 1[illegible]

Sir,

In order to answer your letter of the instant with due propriety, and to conform to the Spirit of the Royal orders, I have on the subject, wrote to the Intendant Mr Morales who is who has been my guide in the following manner

"My answer shall be, respecting the particulars of your letter, a positive refusal. I cannot, "that is, I cannot deviate from the rules given "to us by his Catholic Majesty which I have "transcribed to you in answer of the instant. "For the same reason, neither his Excellency Gover-"nor Wilkinson requested me to allow the pass-"age of two American vessels one in the Spanish "and the other in the French Channel, which I did not "grant, and his Majesty approves my con-"duct and ordered the Rules to be carried "into execution."

These circumstances will convince your Excellency that it is not in my power to comply with your request, however, I will represent the case to the King, and inform you of the result as soon as possible.

I accept assurances of my respect and Consideration

His Excellency
Governor Claiborne.

/Signed/ V. Folch.

[illegible] Consequence
[illegible] Chambers the United States Factor
[illegible] Stevens [illegible] me, that he had a peaceable
[illegible] for the Cattaraugus and desired [illegible]
[illegible] ing entered with the Spanish Authorities
[illegible] to enter from the Atlantic passage for
[illegible] or packet passed to the Governor
[illegible] Florida who is [illegible] a letter which
the enclosed No 1 is a copy, and on which he received
an answer of which No 2 is a copy.

From these documents you will discover that the
interest of the Country is [illegible] exposed to
the caprice of a Spanish Officer. But I trust this
difficulty will soon be removed, and that the United
States will [illegible] secure all the Country east of
the Mississippi as far as the River Perdido. to that
River we have an undoubted claim under the Treaty
of the 30th [illegible] and I trust this claim will be
maintained.

Mr. Dinsmore writes me, that the Choctaws
continue well disposed and that the arts of civiliza-
tion are progressing among them. The Red-Bird
laid out the two thousand dollars which were given him
for the loss of his relation, in implements of husbandry,
and the family are perfectly satisfied.

I understand that several tribes of Indians west
of the Mississippi propose holding a Grand Council

at the [illegible] first day of June
I shall [illegible] a suitable craft
for the Transport to will embark for
Pensacola in three or four days
with the Troops
from the Island
of Orleans

The Hon. be
Henry Dearborn
Secretary of War.

New-Orleans 15 March 1804

Sir,

Two men of the names of Sutton and
May were lately convicted in the Mississippi
Territory of Piracy and Felony and have since
been executed. These men were two of a Gang
of Banditti who committed frequent outrages
on the Mississippi River, and on the Wilderness
road. This Banditti had become a terror to all
persons who navigated the Mississippi or
travelled the Wilderness road, and a reward of
four hundred dollars for apprehending them was
offered by the Secretary of War, and five hundred
dollars by myself, in my Character as Governor of
the Territory. —— Sutton and May were ar-
rested previous to my leaving Natchez but no fact

[illegible] these pleas
[illegible] directed (with
[illegible] Board [illegible] Mulatto or Convict desertion
[illegible] of
[illegible] blue [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
of the United States [illegible]
attending their Conference and that the Board
by the United States and [illegible] to ascer-
tain upon [illegible] the Numbers of the Accounting
Officers of the Treasury [illegible] [illegible] indeed
be a tedious) charge against the United States, but
if it should devolve upon the Secretary, I fear it
will [illegible] to her treasury, against
which there are already more claims, than its pre-
sent resources can meet.

With assurances of my
respect and esteem!

Signed — Wm. C. C. Claiborne

James Madison
Secretary of State

New Orleans March 10

Sir

The meeting of which I advised
my letter of the 10 instant has taken place
The assembly was much more numerous than I
expected. It was composed of the
Merchants of New Orleans and
its environs, but of the Planters
The meeting was held at the house of a
Gentleman well versed with Some Reserve.
Through the whole transaction the Gentlemen who
attended the assembly at my request did me
hex to give the following sentiments.
Mr. Bore the Mayor of the City presided
and having called to order the Submitted the meet-
ing propositions to the meeting to wit — That the
assembly take the necessary measures to have one
Commissioner or Commissioners to the Government
of the United States to represent the grievances of
Louisiana, but especially the desire of the inhabi-
tants for a continuation of the Slave trade, and
their great solicitude for speedy relief from their
present commercial embarrassments. — The Presi-
dent of the meeting, then requested that any per-
son having other propositions to offer, would sub-
mit them. — A Mr. Patrion a Sugar planter
then took from his pocket a paper, and read

to

to the Senate and House
of the United States,
of the powers and talents of
that [illegible] authorize the Commissioners
deputed [illegible] at the approaching
session of Congress deputed
to [illegible] the [illegible] Orleans
[illegible] from each District and from
[illegible] these deputies to
to elect two officers [illegible] as
press and also [illegible] Commissioner whose
duty should be to give instructions from time to time
to the Commissioner and more fully explain the sub-
jects of the slave-trade, and press Commercial em-
barrassments and that the Governor of Louisiana,
be requested to [illegible] in support of these
measures.

Petitions [illegible] were apparently
well received and the exhortations of the Company
expressed by the very general clapping of hands.

Mr. Sutton (the Secretary) who had moved
the meeting, next rose, and observed, "that there
seemed but little difference in opinion, he had thought
one Commissioner to Congress sufficient, but if two was
preferred, he had no objection," he then expatiated on the
burdens and oppressive grievances, under which the
people of Louisiana labored, the unfortunate conse-
quences which might attend the suppression of the
slave trade, and added, that Congress was

too

too mighty for the interests of [illegible]
and unbridled, and that the people [illegible]
take some measures to give the Government [illegible]
ation, and concluded an inflammatory [illegible]
speech by moving that [illegible] for [illegible]
proscription. ——— It may be proper [illegible]
that while the Subscribers [illegible] the
Contest was manifestly [illegible] for
Liberal Gentlemen, [illegible] many [illegible]
authors seem to feel [illegible] interests?
Let us just turn [illegible] the recent tumult
he was permitted to proceed [illegible] interruption.

Doctor Sibley [illegible] to attended the
meeting, with a [illegible] best efforts
to give a proper direction to the deliberations
next claimed attention and declared (in the
vision of several Gentlemen present) a very im-
mious, prudent and judicious speech. ———
The Doctor in his exordium remarked the
meeting of his detention and standing in this
Society, and declared his interest was so inti-
mately connected with the happiness and wel-
fare of Louisiana, that he was certain, no one
could believe that the observations he should
make, proceeded from other considerations than
the public good: he then took a general view
of the former and present situation of the Provin-
ce,

suggested a doubt
[illegible] and
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

proposed [illegible] of three shou[ld]
appointed [illegible] to draft [illegible]
reported [illegible] next meeting. and that [illegible]
signed by the President [illegible]
Contents to be transmitted [illegible]
request that he would [illegible]
General Government [illegible]
on the Present [illegible]
was received. Adjourned [illegible]
for the last Speech he had presented him [illegible]
delivering [illegible] to be [illegible]
the example [illegible]
the gentleman to be [illegible] of the Society
he desired [illegible] in that language."
which request [illegible] and agreeing delivered an French nearly the same sentiments which he had previously done in English.

Doctor Watkins's Speech was well received, and had a great effect. Mr. Dotzin's Motion, which had excited such general plaudits was rejected not a single person being in its favor, and Doctor Watkins's motion carried unanimously. —

The Doctor & Mr. Mercault and Mr. Petit (two respectable merchants) were appointed the Committee to draft the Memorial, and then the

meeting

[illegible] to receive it
[illegible] is a trouble
[illegible] the Commissioner to bargain and
to gratify [illegible] not [illegible] much com-
motion was excited [illegible] this present trading district
— I understand that this Mr Tessier is known to
the merchants [illegible] that a Mr
Closton a Merchant [illegible] suffered much
by this fraud — Mr Tessier [illegible] is
[illegible] a young man, very much of a
Parisian in his manners and politics has acquired
some influence among the Gentlemen of the French
Society. — I hope however, that his real character
will soon be known, and that he will sink into
Contempt.

I will again take the liberty to observe, that the continuation of the Slave trade for a few years is viewed by the inhabitants as essential to the welfare of this Province and no act of Congress would excite more discontent, than an immediate prohibition. My private feelings with respect to this

this [illegible] to express, but
seems [illegible] to carry [illegible]
dient [illegible] and sentiments of the
tants of [illegible] of general
[illegible] Convention [illegible]
mer [illegible] [illegible]
and [illegible] [illegible]
that provision would [illegible]
zens of Louisiana to [illegible]
This privilege was expected and [illegible] highly gra-
tifying.

I believe also, that the citizens of Louisiana,
would be well pleased in having some voice in
their local government and the State Trea-
sury in the sum of forty four dol-
lars, twenty four of which shall be drawn by
the Governor as the Treasurer of the Legislature
might be pleasing, and if this branch had the
power of electing a delegate to Congress with
authority to speak but not vote, it would tend
more to conciliate the confidence of the people in
the General Government.

If at the late meeting, the general wish
had been expressed in a Memorial, I am sure
Congress would have been solicited to give the
people some voice in their local government and
a delegate to Congress. — To ascertain the ge-

ral Neptune [illegible] of the
[illegible]
a [illegible] than the
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

New Orleans 13 March 1804

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

to accept [illegible]

[illegible] In the

to be executed but the

[illegible] the

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Such [illegible] and all the offic
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
you and wish [illegible] to expect this assistance to
your offers that I [illegible] [illegible]
this subject, and that [illegible]
to [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
in the [illegible] [illegible]
you to [illegible] that although I
have [illegible] [illegible] three or four
Volunteer Companies in this City, at least that [illegible]
with the view of [illegible] any distinction in their
situations, [illegible] [illegible] preference of
Influence, but [illegible] [illegible]
to recall a number [illegible] the Militia [illegible]
under the former Government attached to
no Corps, or even amenable to any Court of Mi-
litary duty whatever.

I regret that when you were last in Town
Certain Circumstances prevented me from having the
pleasure of seeing you and particularly so as
I was informed by Dr Watkins that you wished
to communicate to me some particulars relative to the
public interest. The Doctor has stated them to me
in substance but I flatter myself that on your next
visit to Town you will be so obliging as to inform
me (in person) more particularly.

I have the honor to be &c

H. Bellechasse
Col.t Commandt of the Militia Syms

Hon.r C. C. Clitherow

[illegible] Sir

[illegible] your favour [illegible]
[illegible] and [illegible] you
[illegible] [illegible] the Magazine
[illegible] [illegible] for the protection of trade and
good order. I am [illegible] aware [illegible] speaks of
the Officers [illegible] Ordnance Stores of Gunpowder
and the Bayonets [illegible] have to inform you that
this subject shall be [illegible] taken into consi-
deration, and [illegible] made as may best comport
with the [illegible] and the safety of
the Country [illegible] to the particular description
of Magazine [illegible] shall not be admitted into
the Council, nor the means of making the discrimi-
nation [illegible] Government particularly upon myself,
nor can [illegible] transfer it to any other body. You may
be assured however that such measures shall be
taken in that affair as may be best calculated to
secure the public good. —— In reply to your
second Communication, wherein you request me to
name a place of deposit for Powder &c I can only
observe that the present situation of the Government
not permitting the erection of a new Magazine
for Powder I shall enquire into the situation and

con-

condition of the building [illegible]
isting [illegible] and [illegible] the [illegible]
able to that purpose they will be subject [illegible]
destroyed.

[illegible] to call [illegible]
[illegible] fifteen [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
of the [illegible] to [illegible] and of the
improper Consent [illegible] the [illegible] which
you allude [illegible] given such instruc-
tions [illegible] the peace and safety
of the Country [illegible] honor to be

[illegible]

[illegible]

Signed [illegible] C. C. Claiborne

M. Boré Mayor.

New-Orleans March 20th 1804

To the Mayor and Municipality of New-Orleans

Sir

I received a few days since Mr. Derbigny's resignation of the office of Secretary of the Municipality and not wishing to fill his vacancy without Consulting that body, I have addressed to you this letter, and request that you would nominate to

to my [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[

exactly [illegible] unfriendly [illegible] em
proceedings [illegible]
[illegible] for granted, that [illegible]
[illegible] yourself [illegible] surprise
the person [illegible]
with a certificate [illegible]
ing to the United States [illegible]
[illegible] that [illegible]
acted [illegible] your Certificate,
states [illegible] belonging to the United States
will serve to [illegible]

I pray you health and happiness

Yours &c.

W. C. C. Claiborne

New Orleans April 22nd 1804

Sir

Since the receipt of
the 17th instant I have received communications from
the President of the United States relative to
the organization of the Militia, I therefore request
the favor of your presence at the Government
House as soon as you may find it convenient.

I have the honor to be,
with consideration of respect
Your Obt. Servt.

M. Bellechasse
Col. Commandant of Militia

(Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne

[illegible] Bill [illegible] by your
[illegible] have [illegible] under the instructions [illegible] from you containing some regulations for the general
police of the County, I am ready to assent to any
power to entertain all [illegible] complaint.
I regret the circumstances of your indisposition, and
have to assure you that [illegible] you may come
to town, [illegible] having the pleasure of
seeing you

I have the honor to be
with respect and esteem
Your Obd. Servt.
Wm C. C. Claiborne

/Signed/

M. St Amand,
The Commandant
of the first German Coast "

[illegible] February 20

[illegible] Department

[illegible] Examination of the Corps [illegible]
Steamer [illegible] Report thereon [illegible] De-
partment, [illegible] Subject of Commissioning, Uniforming
&c. &c. [illegible] Corps [illegible] General Regulations [illegible]
Susceptible, [illegible] Corps [illegible] Efficiency [illegible]
under existing circumstances [illegible] will be adopted
either to [illegible] improve the organization as
may [illegible] your Excellency's Opinion be most proper,
It was [illegible] not to increase the Corps but
diminish it, [illegible] can be done [illegible] Strength of
force, the [illegible] will be attended with
Caution, having regard [illegible] Fidelity and Ability
of Character, as well as [illegible] Security and
influence among their [illegible] It may be ad-
visable to present them with a Standard or
Flag as a token of the confidence placed in them
by the Government; it need not be large or very
expensive, but such as will be satisfactory to the
Corps; if a Silk one should be deemed necessary,
I presume it can be painted at New-Orleans,
otherwise it may be made of Bunting like the
flags for Sea service. The organization of the
several Companies of Militia, noted in your
Excellency's letter to the Secretary of State,

merit

[illegible] the Gulf of
[illegible] presume
[illegible] all
[illegible] Orleans
[illegible] you to take
[illegible] Officers of the Customs
[illegible] have reported
[illegible] to pursue to such
[illegible] as the nature of the case may require
effecting a complete evacuation of the Floridas by
said Officers and Troops as soon as possible.
There can be no reasonable objection on the part of
the Spanish Officers to a complete execution of
the said Treaty within three months at furthest
after possession is taken by the French Govern-
ment. — It is expected that no vessel
either Public or Private ought to pass up the
River without [illegible] at the Port of entry
at New Orleans [illegible] is possible some armed
vessels may [illegible], it will be expedient
to have every such vessel detained at Pla-
quemines until she shall be reported to you, who
will adopt such prudent steps as the nature of the
case may require" and I flatter myself you will
be sensible of the propriety of avoiding as much as
possible every cause of offence either to the Spanish
Government, its officers or subjects. A Bill has
passed the Senate of the United States and will im-
mediately be taken up in the House of Representatives
for

[illegible] of Government
Lower and Upper [illegible] such [illegible]
[illegible] and [illegible] factory [illegible]
[illegible] of this Country — and to [illegible]
three additional companies [illegible]
Penn arrive at New Orleans on [illegible] the South
which it is intended with the Troops [illegible]
addition to the [illegible] now there, form a sufficient
force to [illegible] the Tranquility of the Country —
General [illegible] should not have left New Orleans
before this Reaches you I will thank you to request
him to issue the necessary orders to the Command-
ing Officer at Pascagoula, relative to any Armed
Vessel that may enter the [illegible] Lakes be
retained at that Post until [illegible] as before
mentioned.

I am respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
Signed / H. Dearborn

His Excellency
Wm. C. C. Claiborne

[illegible] arrival of the French troops and passengers
is a circumstance to be regretted on [illegible]
The steps taken and contemplated [illegible] of
it are approved by the President, and is hoped
will lead to a satisfactory result. I shall communi-
cate the subject to Mr. Pinkney, who is desposed to free
the trade [illegible] from the burden
of subjection [illegible] monarchy, as well as
to promote [illegible]

The Secretary of Government for Louisiana
is still [illegible] to its commerce
and Navigation has ceased, and will be of course
transmitted from the Treasury Department.

You will learn from General Dearborn the views
of the President on the subjects connected with
the War Department.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
With great respect,
Your most obdt servt

/Signed/ James Madison

His Excellency
Wm. C. C. Claiborne.
Governor &c of Louisiana.

February 20 1814

General Post Office

Your draft of this date in favor of [illegible] has this day been presented and paid — but it is [illegible] because of the [illegible] partment [illegible] a provision by law authorizing such charges. The Post Master General accounts at the Treasury [illegible] to transmit to me [illegible] on the [illegible] war, with [illegible] have concurred on the subject to remunerate this Office for the payments which has been made

[illegible]

[illegible]

Signed Gid. Granger

His Excellency
Governor Claiborne

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

a few days
[illegible] in the [illegible]
the Execution by the Spanish [illegible]
the Justice that [illegible] to [illegible]
tal force into [illegible] before [illegible]
of armed vessels at [illegible] and the
cessary orders with the utmost
Secrecy to my Instructions from Mr Dear I
formed of that I had engaged those persons for
the expedition and [illegible] by the Mississippi
Militia, [illegible] Major Claiborne's ac
count against me for the articles furnished and
wish to be informed whether I may draw on
for the amount. The [illegible] is an item
the account, as [illegible] was the
article furnished by my order. The cloth was used
for Leggings for the Riflemen, but I understand
was particularly desired by the Men. The other items
I recognize; they were absolutely necessary to a con-
venient movement of the troops. —— I have
paid to Major Claiborne five hundred dollars on
account and drawn that sum from the fund
allowed me for the taking possession of Louisi-
ana. I do not know whether the account
should be wholly paid out of this fund, or
by bills on the War Department and therefore
I ask

Solicit [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[

I [illegible] power & [illegible]
[illegible] let the [illegible]
[illegible] leave [illegible]
[illegible] arrangements [illegible]
[illegible] with [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
Agreeably [illegible] W. C. C. Claiborne

I [illegible] a bill [illegible] in favor of Major Claiborn for [illegible] Post Master General for Six hundred & sixty dollars sixty [illegible] cents, on account of his Contract for carrying the Express mail from Natchez to New Orleans which [illegible] Post Master General has paid, but has requested that I would forward him a bill on you for that amount being of opinion that the Claim more properly belonged to your Department and which I shall do.

W. C. C. Claiborne

The Hon.ble
Henry Dearborn
Secretary of War

Sir

I have received [illegible] communication from [illegible] since my arrival here, and [illegible] not addressed to me, without being [illegible] person, for the seat of [illegible] was intended me. I shall [illegible] taste [illegible] these views. Depart- ment will communicate that they [illegible] great, that I consider the conveyance of post from this city to Washington as very precarious and unsafe. If my communications have reached you regu- larly there [illegible] of any importance in this [illegible] are not advised, and [illegible] add, that perfect good order [illegible] prevail in New-Orleans and as far as I can learn throughout the pro- vince.

The Law relating to the commerce and navigation of Louisiana, has not yet been received by me, nor are its contents known here: its arrival is awaited with great anxiety, and I persuade myself that the provisions of the law will be satisfactory.

The Spanish forces are not yet withdrawn, and

[illegible] the public
[illegible] part of the [illegible] interest [illegible] from
[illegible] been [illegible] force an [illegible] of
[illegible] relative to [illegible] and [illegible]
as often been [illegible] that the [illegible]
[illegible] preparations for departure —
tions are still continued, but they [illegible]
tos [illegible] for the interest of the United
[illegible] provided to leave this [illegible]
few days, but I trust that the [illegible] Gen-
eration shall make [illegible] the for-
eign agents and their [illegible] are gone. —
The Government [illegible] then be easily [illegible]
and the prosecution [illegible] will be [illegible]
with no difficulty.

General [illegible] here, and I
believe will not [illegible] French troops
are withdrawn and [illegible] things delivered
when this will happen, I cannot certainly say, but
if there is any confidence to be given to the Spa-
nish officers, a final evacuation will take place
in a few days.

Accept assurances

of my great respect
and high consideration

/Signed/ Wm. C. C. Claiborne

The Honble
James Madison
Secretary of State.

Extract of a
Letter from
dated New
to
Letter of this date I have rece
thanks to you for honoring my
18th November for six months
Hartford Courts, and agreeably
inclose you
for the

the Post
Office
Bags
Post-Office

New-Orleans 24th March 1804

Sir

Acknowledging from your
Letter to me
Bags used by the
Post-Offices from
Office at Natchez is not sufficiently
large to contain the mail, I must ask the favor of you
to procure a larger Bag, and to pay the cost thereof
out of monies you may receive on the postage of
Letters.

With respect and esteem.
Your Obd.t Servt.
(Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne

Dear Sir

New Orleans 24th March

Your letter of the 15 instant I have had pleasure to receive

[illegible] Governor Claiborne [illegible] of Louisiana, a post from the Commandant at Natchitoches [illegible] a few miles [illegible] the interests of Louisiana [illegible] else, but I cannot [illegible] Indian towns on to [illegible] Mississippi as a trader. [illegible] kind of trade [illegible] out endangering the peace of the frontiers, and the good understanding which exists between the United States & his Catholic Majesty. Such however is my confidence in Governor Claiborne (of whom I have a good opinion) that if he would select any out-post in Louisiana for his residence, I will grant him a license to trade with the Indians who might visit such post.

Perfect tranquility prevails in this City and as far as I can learn throughout the province. —— Accept my best wishes!

I am, Dear Sir, very respectfully,
Your obdt. Servt
Wm. C. C. Claiborne

Cato West Esqr
Secretary of the Miss. Terr.y

Sir

I have the pleasure
of my last by the Count de Vergennes
to which I refer you for the Copy of my Powers and Instructions
dated and one in addition, which I suppose
will be the present a Settlement of the Treasury De-
partment but I was anxious to forward you the
Vouchers, in order that you might be informed of
the extent of my expenditures.

The payment made to Major Claiborne for
sundry supplies furnished the Mississippi Militia,
I presume will more properly be chargable to the War
Department, and on this Account I have consulted the
Secretary. You will observe that I have paid Decius
Wadsworth three hundred dollars on account. It
may be necessary to mention that Major Wadsworth has
acted as Secretary to the American Commissioners,
and has really had arduous duties to perform. —
Our Correspondence with M. Daussat has been volu-
minous, and Major Wadsworth from his accurate
knowledge of the French language has been useful
to us in translating M. Daussat's letters. It seemed
to the General and Myself very just, that Major
Wadsworth should be allowed something for his
services, and I have determined to pay him at the
rate

[illegible] of [illegible]

You will observe that there is a balance remaining in the hands of $232.84 dollars. The fact is that I have withheld that sum from the warrant of this date, in consequence of a claim which has been presented to the Government [illegible] but which will probably be rejected. I have withheld it for this reason, because I am not certain whether the expenses of the Commissioners and Secretary, will not exceed the sum of four hundred dollars, for which sum I have drawn a warrant, in favour of the Secretary of State, and transmitted it to him by the Secretary of War, [illegible] thinking that it would be equally acceptable to the Executive, that I should draw one compensation out of the Thirteenth Dollars fund, provided there was sufficient for that object, and to retain besides, the Contingent expenses of the temporary Government.

With esteem and respect,

I am, Sir,

your most obedient

(Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne

The Hon.ble
Albert Gallatin
Secretary of the Treasury

Note.—By the account forwarded in the above

above letter, [illegible]

the sum of four hundred [illegible]

of $3167. [illegible]

of the Census which I have expended

[illegible] the Treasury [illegible]

[illegible] by the Marshals [illegible]

taking the Census [illegible] hundred

and thirty two dollars & fifty one cents, my letter

to the Secretary of the Treasury will show in what

manner [illegible] accounting for this balance. ——

I left Natchez on the 1st of December, on which day

my monthly allowance ought to [illegible] no doubt will

be construed to have commenced —— on the last of

this month therefore there will be due me

sixteen hundred dollars which will bring the

Government in debt to me

William C. C. Claiborne

—— " ——

New Orleans 26 March 10

Sir,

I have received your letter of this day respecting the Brothers of Jean Gaily which has induced the request that I would write to the Officer of the Customs to grant a license for the Brothers to proceed with their Vessel to Sea, as soon as they are able to get her off the Mud, and I shall accordingly do so, and have no doubt of my request being complied with, as I am sure every accommodation will be given to the Brothers to get their Vessel off with the least possible delay.

I am Sir
Your most obt. Servt
Wm C. C. Claiborne

M. Laussat.

New Orleans 26 March 10

Sir,

I hasten to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day relative to the French Sailor Jacques Griffon, on board the armed brig Martin from Kingston, and to inform you, that the Captain has already received from me, orders to deliver to the said Sailor all his Cloathes, to pay him the amount of wages justly due, and to give him his discharge, all which will be promptly executed.

Accept assurances
of my respectful Consideration

M. Laussat.
Commissioner of France

(Signed) Wm C. C. Claiborne

[illegible] against [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Notary [illegible]

[illegible] personally came [illegible]

[illegible] appeared Thomas Bailey [illegible] being duly sworn

[illegible] that he Thomas Bailey, late

Chief Officer of the United States, armed vessel

Charleston Packet Corrector, bound on the American brig

Columbia, Commanded by William Torrey, originally

bound from Charleston to Cartagena with a cargo

of Merchandize and provisions and last from this

Port of Providence, then continued, they escaped in

the night, after having been boarded by the blacks of a con-

siderable fleet of their privateers, and then bound to Jamaica

for provisions and water, that on or about the seventh

day of February last, being as near as the deponent can

conjecture between Cape Bonna Maria and Jamaica, they

were chased, fired at, and brought to, by a Schooner

under French Colors, by whom the Captain of the

Columbia was ordered, to get out his boat, and immediately

come aboard, this order the Captain was forced

to comply with, and accordingly hoisted out his boat,

and sent in her, his mate, with the brig's papers, —

in a short time, the boat returned, manned with a

French

Privateer [illegible] soon as they got on board, began plundering the vessel and abuse the Captain and Crew, putting them in irons, and [illegible] and [illegible] obscene [illegible] that [illegible] must abuse [illegible] ment [illegible] these outrages, and the other [illegible] the Captain to [illegible] them in this manner, until the [illegible] and loading them with the most [illegible] force them with all the crew [illegible] lors, into the boat - [illegible] deponent to go into the [illegible] the East [illegible] that on going [illegible] to be La Bayadere [illegible] and eighty men, Commanded by Captain Blucher who ranks himself as Brigadier [illegible] out from New-Orleans [illegible] to St Jago de Cuba, where the deponent found about fifty sail of American prizes as well inward as outward bound; the Captains of several of which informed the deponent, that their Cargoes had been plundered, their vessels stripped, and then ballast introduced into them after which they put to sea with a French Crew, for the purpose, as the deponent was informed, and actually believes, of sinking them. The deponent further saith, that upon demanding of Captain Blucher the restoration of the vessel,

[illegible] Commission,
that the vessel and
Commission could be had at
[illegible] found the brig, and would [illegible]
had [illegible] months before [illegible] going
for [illegible] he found [illegible] and
[illegible] had taken [illegible]
[illegible] all [illegible] and [illegible] appare
[illegible] that he was literally [illegible] to his shirt. —
Upon [illegible] Captain Boucher he was refused
the [illegible] assistance although he had been robbed
from [illegible] two thousand dollars in Specie. — He
deponent further says that the master of the said brig,
who had been sent to watch the motions of the French
in port upon the [illegible] he had left their
boats along side of the brig discharging her cargo. — The
deponent also says that he was informed by Captain
Boucher that there were about that time, seventeen
privateers fitting out at St Jago, and also, that they
were fitting out, three more, from vessels which had
been taken from the Americans, and were converted into
French privateers, and that sixteen sail of the same
description were fitting and arming out of Baracoa
— that in general, they were small schooners, with one
or two guns, but full of men. — The deponent was
also informed, that the Columbia was the second
American prize made by La Coquette, since leaving
New Orleans. — The deponent further saith, that
his domestic who was left sick on board the
brig,

brig, was [illegible] so brutal a manner, that his [illegible] was [illegible] and that the department was obliged to [illegible] from [illegible] in that [illegible]

[illegible] of the [illegible] Court [illegible] Eastern [illegible] of the [illegible] of the United States of America [illegible] 28th year [illegible]

[illegible] Notary Public.

A true copy from the Original

[illegible]

New Orleans 21st March 180[illegible]

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose to your Excellency a Statement made on oath, by a Citizen of the United States, relative to the Capture of an American vessel, the plundering of her Cargo and the ill treatment of the Crew, by a Privateer under French colors called La Coquette, Commanded by a Captain Buchir: ——— This Privateer is said to have been fitted out at New-Orleans, while Louisiana remained under the Government of Spain. — You will further perceive from the Statement enclosed, that the Captured vessel was carried into St Jago de Cuba a Spanish port, and which is at

States to afford a
[illegible] subject of
[illegible] unfavorable
[illegible] impression that
[illegible] connection
[illegible] between
[illegible] and
[illegible] from
[illegible] subject
[illegible] to make a satisfactory
[illegible] communication
[illegible] to your
Excellency the communication and must solicit the
favor of an answer as soon as may be convenient.

I present assurances
of my high respect
and Consideration

Your [illegible] C. C. Claiborne

His Excellency
The Marquis De Casa Calvo
Commissioner of His Catholic Majesty &c &c &c

His Excellency
Governor Endicott
of the Massachusetts Society &c &c &c

Sir

I have the honor to enclose herewith a Copy of a Letter from the Secretary of War of the United States to me, relative to the Requisition of the United States upon this State for Militia, and my Instructions thereupon, together with a Letter from Colo. Wilkinson, stating that he is at present unprovided with Arms. I request you as the most speedy mode to have as soon as may be convenient the Militia for the purpose of making such arrangements as may be proper to carry the intentions of the President relative to the Militia into immediate and effectual Execution.

I have the honor to be,
with due esteem
Your obdt. Servt.

Maj. Gen. Wilkinson

(Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne

Circular

Dear Sir

[illegible] of a Government, or on the [illegible] from one Condition to another [illegible] that laws are made [illegible] tions entirely neglected [illegible] too much the case [illegible] have lately taken place in [illegible] ever that an Political [illegible] munity [illegible] to recall the citizens to the [illegible] and to establish that [illegible] to the preservation of [illegible] of Good Government.

I have therefore deemed it proper to make to you a general communication relative to your official duties, and to request your faithful attention to the following Instructions.

1st. In your Character as Commandant you are required to cause the Militia of your District to be enrolled, and to assemble them with their arms, at some central and

convenient place

and to protect them

you are authorized

subject to your judgment

Commissioners for the Freedmen

you will take such measures

as may prevent slaves from crowding

the [illegible] by night without passes, or from trading among

themselves or with the public without passes

from their owners, that you are hereby enjoined

to enforce strict justice and as mercy the regulations

of police heretofore established in this province, and

which are still in force upon the subject of slaves,

as well with a view to their better treatment which

will be the consequence of good behaviour as to

promote the interests of their masters.

3rd You will cause the roads, bridges and levees

to be mended, and kept regularly and constantly

in good repair, to the end that the crops may be

preserved, and the communication by land facilitated,

and rendered safe and convenient; for the accomplishment

of which, you will put into immediate execution

the regulations heretofore existing in relation to these ob-

jects.

4th You are to allow no person or persons on the

public road or elsewhere in your District to sell or

[illegible] of the Revenue
[illegible] without [illegible] reason for
[illegible] shall [illegible] strictly observed [illegible]
to that effect [illegible] laws heretofore made
in [illegible] to [illegible] be
[illegible]

[illegible] has [illegible] to
prohibit [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] to any [illegible] without the [illegible]
[illegible] to any [illegible] with
out [illegible] these instructions you
will [illegible] the [illegible] at the time you
grant the [illegible], and [illegible] not contrary
to this [illegible] this [illegible] the last
offence, be forfeited.

Desirous of receiving the most accurate knowledge of [illegible] and of the interests of its citizens I have to ask of you such information as you may possess on the following points.

1st. The extent of your District, the quantity, and as nearly as you can state the quality and productions of the soil.

2nd. The number of sugar plantations, and the amount of sugar, rum, taffia and molasses made upon each plantation one year with another.

3rd The number, sex and condition, as [illegible]

4th Are there any [illegible] at present [illegible] of introduction any [illegible] necessary and practicable to locations

5th What is the quantity of vacant land in your district?

6th Are there any [illegible] buildings [illegible] in their value, and what [illegible] belonging thereto?

7th Are there any [illegible] or forks of the river in your District which will admit of being cleared so as to facilitate the commerce of the country? And what (in your opinion) would be the probable expence of such undertaking, and the best method of executing it?

8th The number and condition of your churches. Are you supplied with Clergymen, and do the citizens manifest a disposition to support, respect and patronize regular ministers of the Gospel?

9th The situation and condition of your prisons. Should there be any, and in case there is none, is one required?

I shall expect from you, answers to the

above you [illegible] Government, [illegible]
take that [illegible] from you to be faithful
to the trust committed to [illegible] and to do every thing
in your power to [illegible] prosperity, and to promote
the happiness [illegible] fellow citizens
[illegible] of
over the [illegible] and [illegible] to
in favor of the [illegible] Government the affections of
your fellow

[illegible] you will address upon
the importance, the [illegible] of educating their
Children, of [illegible] early into their minds, princi-
ples of morality, and [illegible] habits
of industry. Education calls forward [illegible] facul-
ties to light, and [illegible] their use. Indus-
try is the great source of public and private wealth
and virtue alone promotes our happiness here, and
insures it hereafter.

You may also assure the citizens of your District
that their true interest is very dear to the bosoms
of their country; that their liberty, property and
religion will be protected; their commerce and
agriculture promoted, and the arts and Science,
in Louisiana particularly cherished.

Some delay must attend the due organisa-
tion of the new Government, it of necessity
attach

[illegible] to [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

To the [illegible] 31 March 1803

[illegible] of New Orleans

Sir

[illegible] to acknowledge the rec[eip]t
of your letter of the [illegible] last on the subject of
the Horse Guard, and the regulations of the
Orleans [illegible] I shall [illegible] the
earliest [illegible] to receive the [illegible]
in your communication, & shall receive from
me that attention which the importance of the sub-
ject requires. [illegible] I think it proper
to mention that you have not [illegible] to make
an experiment of the [illegible] of the Town
of New-Orleans and the Parishes, provided the
inhabitants of the same will voluntarily consent
to raise the necessary funds in the manner pre-
scribed in your letter. If it should be found
that this experiment succeeds, then the inhabi-
tants of the other Districts may be invited to fol-
low the example.

It is to be understood that the Horse Guard
is to be established by my permission and subject
(through your body) to my orders as their Chief.
The Municipality however are to make the
necessary regulations for creating, organizing,

[illegal] proceeding for the
ment of the offic
that the w
white persons and
those who
with
by the
Signed

New Orleans 31 March 1804

Sir

I have been received here and that which relates to the registering of vessels has given great satisfaction.

We have also seen the law providing for a temporary Government in the [illegible] passed the Senate, the prohibiting the importation of slaves is a source of great dissatisfaction and I believe the opinions and wishes of the people upon this subject will be expressed in a memorial to Congress, which will probably be forwarded by the next mail.

I very much fear that your letters to me, are intercepted Some where on the road; I have received but one Communication from you since my arrival in this City, and that was open, when delivered. I shall

future
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] Sir

[illegible] I have [illegible] to [illegible]
[illegible] I had [illegible] [illegible] to take the liberty
[illegible] as this [illegible] of William Brown who is now
[illegible] Orleans
[illegible] is very [illegible] attended by his ac-
quaintances and is truly a deserving young man. —
His [illegible] as a Revenue officer for years during the
Rebellion [illegible] particularly qualify him for
the office of Surveyor and I believe his position as a
public [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] would be
willing to accept the appointment

I am &c

with great respect & esteem
Your obt Servt

(Signed) Wm. E. B. Lacborne

The Hon
Albert Gallatin
Secretary of the Treasury

Sir

I have received your letter of the 22 Inst
relative to the Indians who
last year stole
about that you have
the prices there
for that purpose,
to fill it up and become
other persons you may
the one will hereby receive
ing instructions to the
to which I flatter myself
that attention which the importance of the subject requires.

I am
with true Respect
Your obt Servt
Signed Jno. L. Claiborne.

Mr. Thomas Williamson
Commandant
dans la fourche de Chatimachas

Sir

I have received your letter of the [illegible] ult. and am happy to find that you have succeeded so well in your endeavours to conciliate the affections of the Indians. I hope you will continue to pursue the same line of conduct towards them, and by every means in your power endeavour to prevent any of your young men from committing depredations on the property of the Indians, as it is highly necessary that every thing should be done to preserve the friendship of the Indians at present.

I have received your letter of the 20th inst. and am glad to find that you have succeeded so well in your endeavours to conciliate the affections of the Indians. I hope you will continue to pursue the same line of conduct towards them, and by every means in your power endeavour to prevent any of your young men from committing depredations on the property of the Indians, as it is highly necessary that every thing should be done to preserve the friendship of the Indians at present.

I shall be glad to hear from you as often as possible, and shall be happy to receive any information you may think proper to communicate

2 April 1804

Sir

My attention having been made to
by two Persons Stanley for permission to establ
a ferry across the fourche Lahaye
your District, you are requested to e
into the examination of the fa
Stanley and should he be found
you have my authorization to
measures
to grant you accordingly. Some
tions such I flatter myself
you in the exercise of your office

I am Sir
with esteem and respect
Your obdt. servt.
Signed C. C. Claiborne.

M.r Joseph L'Andry
Commandant of
La fourche de Chatimachas.

Sir

You are [illegible]
before you to [illegible]
[illegible] settled between [illegible]
[illegible] Bourgeois [illegible]
[illegible] amicable settlement of their [illegible]
[illegible] as the case [illegible] plain
[illegible] can be had [illegible] but a time
[illegible] by [illegible] friendly
arrangement as from an [illegible] at law,
[illegible] I would wish [illegible] an amicable
[illegible] you are therefore
desired to do every thing in your power to
produce such an equitable adjustment as to
reconcile the interested parties.

I have the honor to be,
with respect & esteem
Your obdt. Servt.
(Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne.

Mr. Myles Cantrell
Commandant of the
1st. Acadian Coast

New Orleans 3 April 1804

To the Mayor,

and Municipality of New Orleans

Gentlemen,

I have the liberty to address you, for the consideration of the Municipality, a subject of great importance to the health of the inhabitants of the City, and one to which the forwarding of the regulations ... I allude to the putrid state of the numerous Swamps at no great distance from the City and its environs and which constitute a great nuisance. When these animals are not properly and speedily with some attention to their cleanliness, but are permitted to wander about the streets in quest of a substance on rejected carrion and other filth, they soon, in a warm climate become the prey of disease and vermin, and are extremely liable to one of the most horrid maladys to which the human or brute creation is subject.

These evils may be averted by some timely precautions, which I trust the Municipality will direct.

With respect and esteem

I am, Sir, your obt. Serv.

M. Boré
Mayor.

(Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne